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**From:** Miller, Brad  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good?

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**From:** Miller, Brad  
**Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>  
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## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Majority Communications Department*

# GOP Week in Review

2/27/17 – 3/5/17

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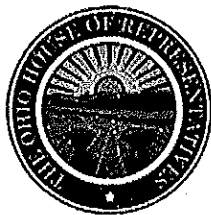
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**From:** Ohio House Republican Communications  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2017 4:56 PM  
**Subject:** GOP Week in Review 2/27/17 – 3/5/17



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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 11:35 AM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life  
**Attachments:** Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf



**Representative Derek Merrin**

**47<sup>th</sup> District**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Derek Merrin

**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

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**Key Facts:**

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at [Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov) or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,



# Ohio House of Representatives



**Representative Derek Merrin**

47<sup>th</sup> District

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Ohio House of Representatives  
House District 47  
Office (614) 466-1731  
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**From:** Springhetti, Blake  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** Reminder: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life  
**Attachments:** Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf

**Reminder: The deadline to co-sponsor is  
tomorrow at 5pm**



**Representative Derek Merrin**

**47<sup>th</sup> District**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Derek Merrin

**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental,  
Vision, and Life  
Insurance Premiums

---

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

**Key Facts:**

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at [Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov) or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely,



# Ohio House of Representatives



**Representative Derek Merrin**

**47<sup>th</sup> District**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Derek Merrin

**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

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Sincerely,





Derek Merrin  
Ohio House of Representatives  
House District 47  
Office (614) 466-1731  
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**From:** report@hannah.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 6:51 PM  
**To:** DL\_Hannah  
**Subject:** Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

**IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:**

**Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.**

**Today's Stories**

- [Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote](#)
- [Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters](#)
- [Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators](#)
- [JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos](#)
- [Shale Gas Production Ends Three-Year Climb](#)
- [Kasich Administration Announces \\$4.3 million in New Tax Credits](#)
- [OSU Touts New Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus](#)
- [Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ECOT](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Ohio GOP](#)
- [Ohio Digest: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Lanzinger Papers](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Commercial Dockets](#)
- [Legislative Schedule Changes](#)

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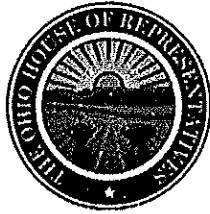
**From:** Miller, Brad

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:48 PM

**To:** Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora

**CC:** Springhetti, Blake

**Subject:** PR ALERT: Merrin HB 169 (sending at 410)



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Majority Communications Department*

**For Immediate Release:**  
March 29, 2017

**Contact:** Blake Springhetti  
(614) 466-1731

### **Rep. Merrin's Bill Ends State Employees' Insurance Free Ride**

COLUMBUS—State Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) introduced House Bill 169, which would require many state employees to effectively pay 15 percent of the total cost for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums. The legislation impacts exempt state employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements, including state legislators, agency directors, and executive staff.

State employees currently contribute zero percent toward their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits while contributing 15 percent toward their medical insurance premiums. House Bill 169 requires the same percentage be paid for dental, vision, and life insurance that employees pay for their medical insurance premiums.

"The free ride for state employees must end. Many private-sector employees are not even offered dental and vision benefits -- let alone absolutely free," said Representative Merrin.

House Bill 169 is projected to save taxpayers over \$2.6 million annually. Also, the legislation instructs the state to seek the same provision while negotiating future collective bargaining agreements that govern about 35,900 unionized state employees that pay zero percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. If unionized state employees paid 15 percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums, the state would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

"State employees already receive a great bargain by paying only 15 percent for their medical insurance," Merrin said. "At the very least, they should pay 15 percent for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits too."

Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute, said, "Asking state employees to put some 'skin in the game' like practically all private sector workers is not too much to ask. We must contain health care costs and assure fairness for all Ohioans."

Eligible state employees qualify for dental, vision, and life insurance after completing one year of service with the state. As of March, 2017, approximately 13,000 exempt state employees were covered under the state's dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans.

House Bill 169 is co-sponsored by 15 state representatives and awaits committee designation.

*For more information, please contact Blake Springhetti at 614-466-1731 or [Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov).*

**From:** Gov. Kasich Comm. Dept.  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: Gov. Kasich's State of the State Address



**JOHN R. KASICH**  
GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO  

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**Communication Department**

**WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT GOV. KASICH'S STATE OF  
THE STATE ADDRESS**

**ALEX FISCHER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, COLUMBUS PARTNERSHIP**

"It was both refreshing and exciting to hear Governor Kasich challenge our state to aggressively stay ahead of the curve in a fast-changing world. In Columbus, we learned early on about the value of leading the way with new technologies. Today we are demonstrating to cities across the country how to implement autonomous, connected and electric vehicles into a smart transportation network. This world will look nothing like we know it now, and we are committed to working with Governor Kasich and his administration to embrace the future with new investments and forward-looking policies."

**ANDY DOEHREL PRESIDENT AND CEO, OHIO CHAMBER**

"We agree with Gov. Kasich. Let's please get this municipal tax burden lightened. The Ohio Chamber echoes the appeal Gov. Kasich made last night to pass municipal tax reform so we can, in fact, help these businesses."

**JILL P. MEYER, PRESIDENT & CEO, CINCINNATI USA REGIONAL  
CHAMBER**

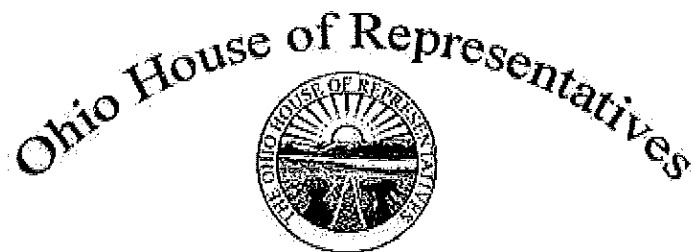
"The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber applauds Governor Kasich's attention to the jobs of the future and a diversifying economy in the State of the State address. Preparing a workforce that is equipped with the skills needed to fill the jobs that are, and will be, available is imperative to business growth for companies of all sizes."

**GREG LAWSON, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE**

"The Buckeye Institute applauds Governor Kasich for acknowledging the need to keep the pedal to the medal to keep the job climate improving. He is right we need to keep spending in check and need to reform the worst municipal income tax in the entire nation."



**From:** Rosenberger, Cliff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** Rosenberger, Cliff  
**Subject:** MEMO: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit  
**Attachments:** ALECSpringTaskForce.pdf



**Cliff Rosenberger**  
**Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives**

### **Memorandum**

**To:** All House Republican Members  
**From:** Speaker Cliff Rosenberger  
**Date:** April 11, 2017  
**Re:** 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

---

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

**On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina.** This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

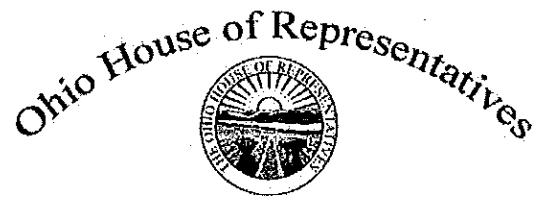
- Civil Justice

- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.alec.org/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yapple in my office at [Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov) or 614-466-7959.





**Cliff Rosenberger**  
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

**Memorandum**

**To: All House Republican Members**  
**From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger**  
**Date: April 11, 2017**  
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- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
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- Health and Human Services
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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yapple in my office at [Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov) or 614-466-7959.

**From:** Lisa Gates

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 1:33 PM

**Subject:** ICYMI: Buckeye's Greg Lawson looks at tax reform in yesterday's Columbus Dispatch

Yesterday Buckeye's Greg Lawson had a piece in *The Columbus Dispatch* looking at how Ohio policymakers can create tax policies that help our economy grow.

### Greg Lawson: Ohio has ways to go to improve tax policy

*The Columbus Dispatch*

By Greg Lawson

April 18, 2017

Now that it is springtime, even if we are fortunate to avoid another blast of cold weather, we are unable to avoid the only thing Benjamin Franklin said is as sure in this world as death: Taxes.

Thanks to the typical tax day falling on a weekend and the federal holiday, Emancipation Day, being observed on Monday, April 17, today is this year's day of reckoning. So even though he is late, the taxman most assuredly is coming!

Lucky for us, Ohio policymakers, including Gov. John Kasich, have been busy trying to make this burden less onerous over the past several years. They have made real strides in this direction and deserve a round of applause for what has been accomplished.

Yet, more should be done, especially when it comes to our complex local taxes. Kasich and the General Assembly have continued to dramatically reduce what as recently as a decade ago was one of the highest state- and local tax burdens relative to other states. As recently as 2005, the personal income tax's top marginal rate was more than 7 percent. It is now less than 5 percent.

Ohio policymakers built upon tax cuts made under former Gov. Bob Taft, eliminated the death tax, and provided significant small-business tax relief. Ohio policymakers also wisely recognized the importance of shifting from income taxes — which are one of the worst taxes when it comes to promoting economic growth — to consumption taxes, and they made marginal improvements to Ohio's singularly unique and terrible municipal income tax.

Naturally, there is more to do.

First, The Buckeye Institute calls on policymakers to continue embracing our principles of good tax policy which include:

- Pro-growth — A tax system should minimize tax distortions, avoid high rates and discourage tax avoidance. A good tax plan will reduce tax rates on investment and labor, which are key components for economic prosperity and job creation.
- Simplicity — The tax code should be simplified by reducing loopholes, credits, and deductions. Complying with the tax code should not be burdensome. A simpler tax code makes it easier for both government administration and taxpayer compliance. A more complicated tax code increases the risk of special interest carve-outs and favors.
- Transparency — The tax code should be clear, enabling taxpayers to easily identify the specific taxes they pay. Ohioans should be able to understand debates over changes in tax policy and know how their elected officials are representing their interests.
- Fairness and equitability — A good tax code promotes equity by ensuring that taxpayers in similar situations are treated similarly, income is not taxed multiple times, and industries are not singled out for preferential tax treatment.

Alternatively, industries and individuals should not be punished and subject to punitive tax rates with government picking winners and punishing losers. People and businesses with equivalent earnings should pay similar taxes. Rates should not force individuals and businesses to change filing status for better tax treatment.

While Ohio's state tax rates have dramatically improved, Ohio remains a state with a high local tax burden. In and of itself, this is not terrible. Ohioans actually get many of their services from local government, not the state. That said, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation, Ohio's local tax burden ranks 13th nationally as a percentage of income. That is contrast to a state tax ranking of only 34. Overall, our tax burden ranks 24th and is clearly driven higher due more to our local tax system than our state tax system.

But the real problem is worse than just the rates. The burden of compliance and administration of some of these taxes, particularly the municipal income tax, can be massive and represent a bigger challenge than just the tax rates themselves. This is why a renewed effort to simplify the municipal income tax and its byzantine maze of compliance — including Kasich's budget proposal that would move toward a singular centralized collection process for businesses through the state — is long overdue.

Though even if this were to be implemented, we still have the problem of double-taxation, since one can be taxed both where he or she works and where one lives if one is unfortunate enough to reside in a community that doesn't offer a full credit.

So let us be happy for how far we've come. Tax policy is getting better in Ohio. The taxman is taking a smaller bite out of Ohioans' wallets. But just as cold air can still hit us in April, bad tax policy can reverse our gains and add to the many other challenges Ohio faces as it tries to improve its economy.

*Greg R. Lawson is the senior policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute*

--

Lisa A. Gates  
Vice President of Communications  
The Buckeye Institute  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-3255 | [BuckeyeInstitute.org](http://BuckeyeInstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

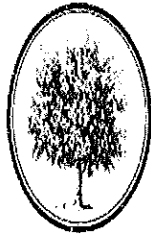
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:37 PM

**To:** Best, Carolyn

**Subject:** May 3 event: criminal justice reform all stars including former OSU running back Maurice Clarett

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# THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

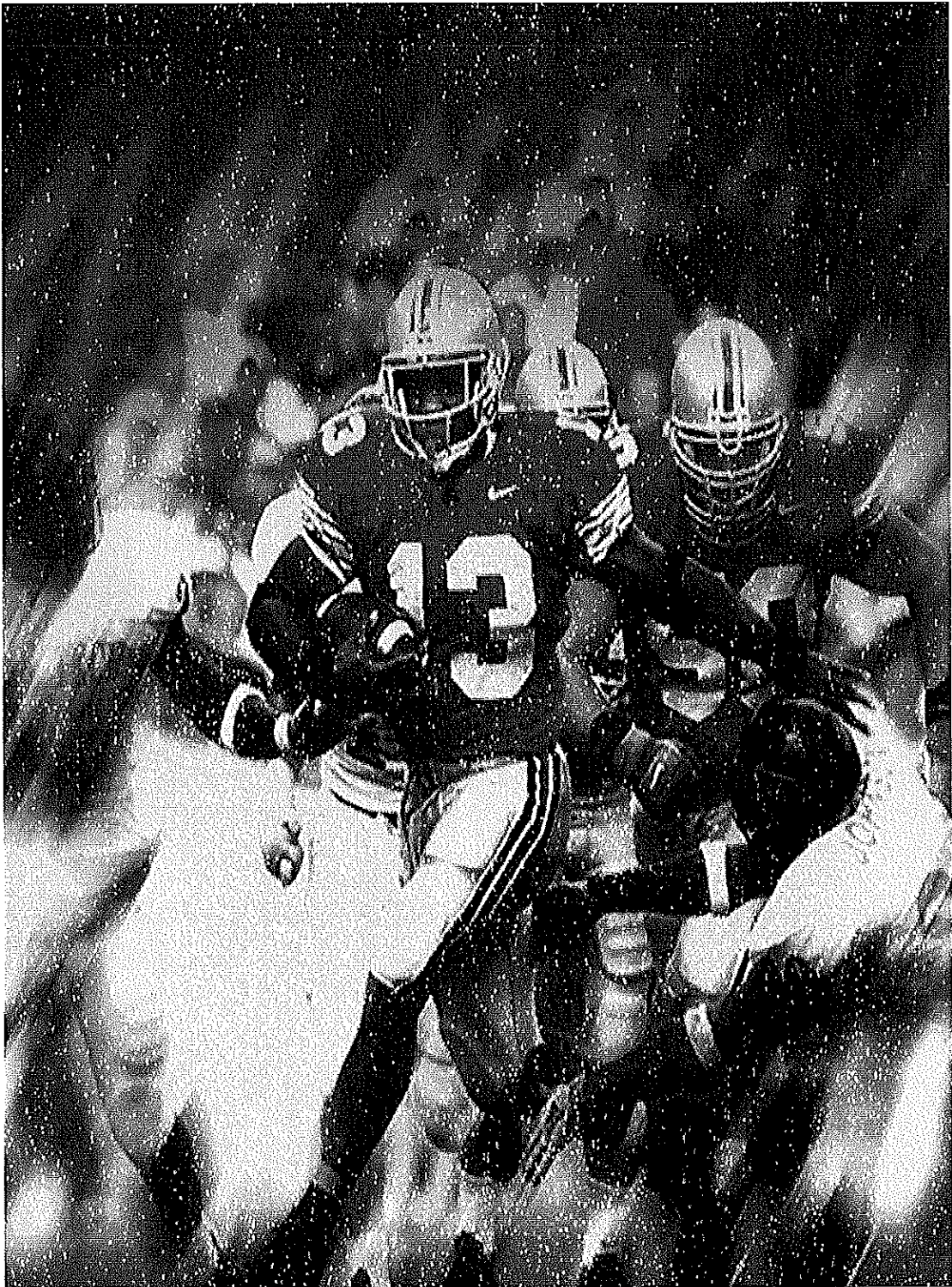
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**REGISTER HERE**





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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2017 7:34 AM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or [Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

### **The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget**

**Columbus, OH** - As state lawmakers work to cut \$800 million from Ohio's budget, The Buckeye Institute today rolled out a series of recommendations policymakers could look at to save taxpayer dollars and trim the needed money. The recommendations are a part of Buckeye's 2017 Piglet Book, which was released in March, and if implemented, could save taxpayers more than \$1 billion, a more realistic target than \$800 million, given recent revenue shortfalls.

"The reality is, Office of Budget and Management revenue estimates have been too optimistic and policymakers need to cut \$1 billion from the proposed state budget. Cutting \$1 billion will offset additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate," said Robert Alt, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Buckeye

Institute. "The good news is, Buckeye has a blueprint - our Piglet Book - that can guide the legislature as it looks for needed cuts."

### **Recommendation #1**

*Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Arts Council: Savings to Taxpayers: \$25.9 Million*

The Ohio Arts Council receives taxpayer monies through income and sales tax revenue, which is then distributed to specifically-selected artists and galleries. While the work on the Arts Council has value, the government should not be an arbiter of culture. Artistic and cultural endeavors can and should be underwritten by donors giving voluntarily rather than by government fiat.

### **Recommendation #2**

*Slow the Rate of Growth in Education Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$208.7 Million*

In FY16, Ohio spent \$10.5 billion funding the Department of Education. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$11.2 billion in FY18 and \$11.4 billion in FY19 for a total of \$22.6 billion. By slowing the rate of growth in education funding, Ohioans could save \$208.7 million.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$11.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$527.4 million over FY16) and \$11.3 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$748.9 million).

"A quality education is about far more than simply throwing more money at the education bureaucracy," said Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute. Simply slowing spending growth and shifting funding towards students rather than the 'system' can yield not only taxpayer savings, but--more importantly--better educational outcomes for our students. It is time to start moving in this direction."

### **Recommendation #3**

*Eliminate Funding to the Ohioana Library Association: Savings to Taxpayers: \$595,228*

While not a huge cost savings when compared to the budget killers of Medicaid and education funding, eliminating funding to private organizations, such as Ohioana Library adds up to real cost savings.

The Ohioana Library Association's work, while laudable, is not a core government service that requires taxpayer subsidies. As with the Ohio Arts Council, private individuals and the private sector should guide investment for this work.

### **Recommendation #4**

*Slow the Rate of Growth in Medicaid Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$1.6 Billion*

More than two decades ago then-Governor George Voinovich called Medicaid the Pac-Man of Ohio's budget. It remains so today, eating up more than 47 percent of Ohio tax dollars.

In FY16, Ohio spent \$22.8 billion funding the Department of Medicaid. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$25 billion in FY18 and \$25.7 billion in FY19 for a total of \$50.7 billion. By slowing the rate of growth, Ohioans could save \$1.6 billion.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$24.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$1.4 billion over FY16) and \$24.9 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$2.1 billion).

"When Governor Kasich released his proposed budget, I previously said of Medicaid funding, 'Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will gobble up an increasing amount of state resources and crowd out other essential investments and priorities,'" said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The Buckeye Institute. "Revenue shortfalls have exacerbated that situation. It is time for Ohio to get serious about controlling Medicaid spending and implementing innovative proposals, such as using 1332 waivers to gain greater flexibility under Obamacare."

### **Recommendation #5**

*Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Grape Industries: Savings to Taxpayers: \$2.4 Million*  
Ohioans pay to market Ohio wines through a five-cent tax on each bottle of wine, something wine producers should pay for themselves.

Taxpayers should not be expected to pay for corporate welfare of any kind, and the government should not favor one business or industry over another. If a company or industry makes a good product, people will buy it. The use of taxpayer money to support favored businesses is both ethically inappropriate and economically harmful.

These recommendations, along with others found in the 2017 Piglet Book, would save Ohio taxpayers \$3.8 billion, more than quadruple the needed \$800 million for which Governor Kasich and leaders in the Ohio House and Senate have called.

###

*Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.*

*The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.*

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
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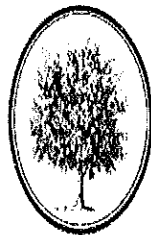
Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2017 8:08 AM

**To:** Best, Carolyn

**Subject:** REMINDER MAY 3 EVENT: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



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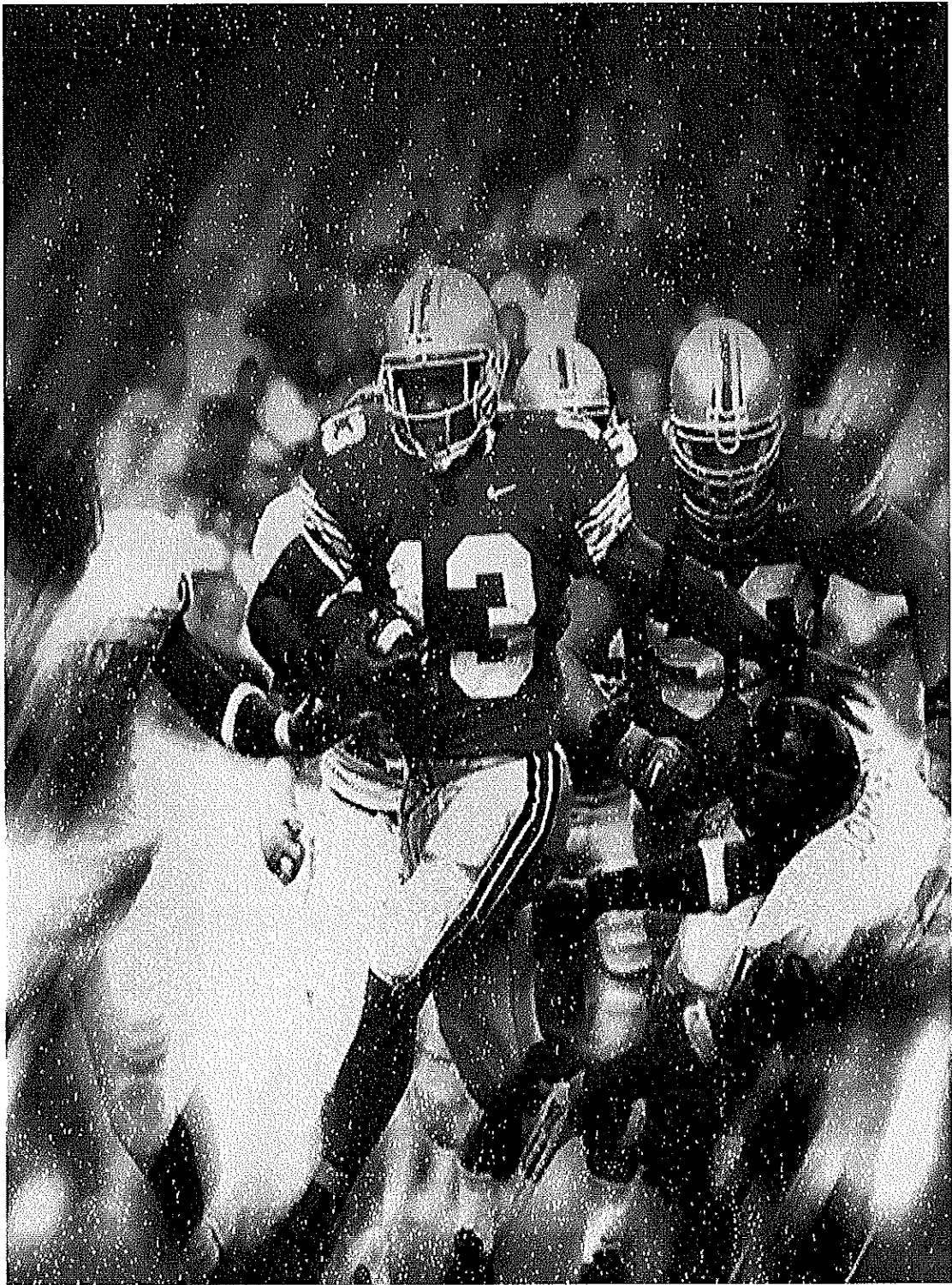
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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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### House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

By Greg R. Lawson

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April 28, 2017

On April 25, the **Ohio House Finance Committee** unveiled its first round of amendments ([download PDF](#)) to the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget, House Bill 49. Even with a few bright spots, the House's first attempt is not nearly as bold as the 2015 budget, it does not make the necessary spending cuts that leadership recently acknowledged, and it will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform.

#### Overview

First, the good news. House Bill 49 rightly eliminates most-but not all-of the "tax shifting" that permeated the Governor's proposal. The bill also retains the basic contours of the Governor's school funding proposal, including better mechanisms for allowing state money to follow the student. The House also re-asserts the General Assembly's

control over federal dollars by reining in Ohio's Controlling Board. And finally, the House largely adopts the Governor's proposed criminal justice reforms that will keep low-level, non-violent offenders from state prisons.

Now, the bad news. The Governor and legislative leadership recently warned that Ohio needed to reduce spending by roughly \$800 million. The spending cuts in House Bill 49 fall well short of that mark. Much of the proposal's \$2.5 billion of "savings" can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand, and such "on paper savings" don't amount to significant real savings.

The House budget, for example, does little to give the state a better grip on Medicaid spending-the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget-and the last biennial budget offered better Medicaid reforms than this one. Thus, the House misses an opportunity to make the kind of meaningful spending cuts that will make it easier for Ohio to pursue fundamental tax reforms.

The Governor's proposal begins to reform Ohio's arcane municipal income tax structure-the House guts that proposal, and then litters the budget with a trail of dubious licensing fee increases. The last House budget recognized Ohio's urgent need to reform her labor laws in order to compete with her reform-minded neighbors-but not this budget. No real tax or labor reforms here, just more opportunities missed.

Fortunately, the current House Bill 49 is not the final word on the matter. The House plans to move the budget next week, leaving a limited-but possible-opportunity for cooler heads to prevail and better policies to be included. With such hope in mind, a fuller analysis of key features of House Bill 49 follows.

**The Buckeye Institute urges members of the House to continue look for additional savings-did we mention our Piglet Book?-and to embrace far more robust Medicaid and labor reforms.**

### **Eliminates Most Tax Shifting**

We generally support tax proposals designed to move Ohio from an income-tax structure to more of a consumption-tax state. But we have long-standing concerns about making that shift too quickly. In our view, any sound, structural tax reform must first be preceded by lower government spending to help resist the inevitable temptation to balance the budget and pay for tax reform by increasing taxes.

We therefore commend the House for eliminating much of the "tax shifting" that effectively allows the government to pick "winners" and "losers" in the market. The House budget, for example, does not include a new tax on vapor, or a severance tax hike, or a tobacco tax increase. Well done. The House also eliminated the Governor's plan to expand the sales tax to include most services-with the unfortunate exception of extending the state sales tax to online travel agencies.

### **Municipal Income Tax Reform**

One of the Governor's better ideas in the FY 2018-2019 budget proposed moving to centralize the tax collection process for businesses across the state. Ohio's municipal income tax structure is among the nation's worst and most burdensome-and, as we have argued repeatedly, simplifying this byzantine system is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the House's substitute budget eviscerates the Governor's reform and then proceeds to charge taxpayers for trying to file a single state tax form-essentially taxing the taxpayer as he attempts to pay his taxes. Insult, meet injury.

We suggest either returning to the Governor's proposal or centralizing tax collections in a single location without levying any additional administrative fees for filing taxes.

### **Budget "Savings" and Spending Restraint**

House Bill 49 purports to cut an additional \$2.5 billion from the Governor's proposal over the next two years, with nearly \$923 million of those "savings" coming from reductions in the General Revenue Fund. Thus, the House budget appears to remain in stride with inflation.

Many of the so-called spending cuts, however, may be more illusory than they at first appear. The House budget claims to save more than \$1 billion from Medicaid, for example, but it remains unclear whether these are real savings or merely deft accounting tricks.

Similarly, \$944 million of the \$2.5 billion "savings" are attributed to reducing the amount the state spends as fiduciary for collecting municipal income net profits taxes. House Bill 49 does reduce the overall appropriations for this function, but this hardly qualifies as "state spending" when these are local tax dollars that the state simply collects and then redistributes to the appropriate localities.

To be sure, the House budget does take some laudable steps forward to restrain spending. The House froze, for instance, the **State Share of Instruction**, which

subsidizes Ohio Institutions of Higher Learning; and eliminated unnecessary subsidies for the Ohioana Library Association. Such subsidies give public institutions less incentive to economize, reduce costs, increase quality, and otherwise behave like rational actors in a free marketplace.

The House also curtailed the Controlling Board's unilateral authority to use more than \$10 million of unexpected federal funds. This reform empowers the General Assembly- and not the Controlling Board-when deciding which federal programs Ohio should join. Had this measure been in place several years ago, Ohio most likely would not have participated in the disastrous Medicaid expansion that was joined against the will of the General Assembly.

We remain encouraged by the House's tribute to fiscal restraint, but earmarks continue to burrow their way into the budget and more cost-cutting is needed in order to bring state spending down to responsible, sustainable levels. See our **Piglet Book** for more examples of how Columbus can trim the fat.

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

We applaud the House for affirming the Governor's proposal to rehabilitate low-level offenders locally rather than in state-run facilities. More than 95 percent of those who go to prison return to our communities. Low-level offenders who serve time in state prisons often return even more hardened and more dangerous than when they began their sentence.

Ohio must pursue policies that protect communities while keeping as many low-level offenders out of prison as safely possible. As we have **explained**, community treatment is twice as effective at one-third the cost, making our communities safer and saving taxpayer money in the long run.

The Governor's budget would require non-violent, non-sex offenders to be rehabilitated locally, and authorize the **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction** to grant counties money to offset the added costs of rehabilitation. State judges participating in a pilot rehabilitation program support the Governor's proposal, while the Ohio Judicial Conference and Prosecuting Attorneys Association have opposed the measure. House Bill 49 struck a compromise that will allow counties to send up to 15 percent of their non-violent, non-sex offenders to prison-a compromise that we believe will save money and make our communities safer.

### **Education Reform**

House Bill 49 rightly embraces the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal. That proposal begins unwinding the inherent problems of "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the accuracy of the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). "Guarantees" allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and "caps" prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount.

Although we applaud the House's effort here, we wish that it was not exceeding the Governor's already respectable Foundation Funding by expanding "racino" gambling that may expose the state to expensive litigation. Two cheers for education reform!

### **Medicaid Reform**

We remain cautiously optimistic-or perhaps hopefully skeptical-that the House's Medicaid spending cuts will actually materialize. House Bill 49 allows Mr. Kasich's Administration to seek a waiver from Washington to add several requirements-including work requirements-to the state's expanded Medicaid population. This is a reasonable, but insufficient first step toward reversing Ohio's Medicaid expansion, and the bill's loose language is riddled with loopholes that threaten to render the reforms ineffective. Compounding our skepticism, the House failed to include the last budget's *Healthy Ohio* waiver that the Obama Administration denied.

Ohio policymakers should be taking full advantage of the current climate in Washington and pushing for innovative Medicaid "**1332 waivers**" to alleviate some of the onerous burdens of Medicaid by helping people get out of the program. For the first time in years, the federal government wants to increase state flexibility in Medicaid programs, and House Bill 49 fails to take advantage of a golden opportunity to pursue bolder reforms that will pare back Medicaid. Again-opportunity averted.

### **Health Care Transparency Reform**

House Bill 49 regrettably waters-down some positive reforms designed to make health care more transparent. Though not a cure for rising health care costs, transparency and patient access to more information can help the market and consumer preferences drive down costs. Another opportunity needlessly wasted.

### **Licensing Reform**

As **we have argued**, Ohio must address her burdensome occupational licensing scheme. By consolidating several licensing boards and commissions, Governor Kasich and House Bill 49 have taken baby-steps toward helping workers achieve their full



professional potential. We continue to advocate administrative savings, and have championed lowering-rather than raising-licensing fees for prospective licensees. The House budget also makes telemedicine services more available and expands occupational freedom for certified nurse practitioners by allowing them to help more patients receive medicine. We see these reforms helping health care providers monitor and treat patients more efficiently and effectively, which will ultimately reduce health care costs.

### **Labor Reform**

House Bill 49 lacks any meaningful labor reform. Where previous budgets made at least some effort to amend Ohio laws on "project labor agreements" or making prevailing wages optional at the local level, this House budget is eerily silent. Even relatively minor labor reforms can help ease burdens on businesses and local governments, thereby reducing costs and spurring economic growth. Labor reform is an opportunity that the House can ill afford to miss.

### **Conclusion**

Fortunately, House Bill 49 will not have the last say on these matters. The full House must still vote on the budget before sending it to the Senate, which gives policymakers time and, *ahem*, opportunity to improve upon the current draft.

The Legislative Service Commission has compiled **these resources** for exploring the gritty details of the budget, including a comparison of House Bill 49 and the Governor's initial proposal.

*Greg R. Lawson is the senior policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute.*

###

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, we did not receive any baskets of goodies on our doorstep this morning. Yet we are still offering two gifts to the world today.

First, if you have ever dreamed you could be part of Buckeye's top notch team, and you have the skills and can-do attitude we require, today could be your lucky day: [Buckeye is hiring](#).

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With May flowers and barely-observed holidays comes new growth in our organization. We told you a few weeks ago about our impressive new VP of Comms Lisa Gates, and now--hot off the press--we can announce that Quinn Beeson is joining us later this week as Buckeye's new Economic Research Analyst.

However, for your May Day enjoyment (in lieu of that lovely basket for which you were hoping), we have [another position that we just opened today for your consideration](#). Take a look, send it on to anyone you think might be a good fit, or apply yourself. We are searching for the best person we can find and expect a competitive process, but we hope that it might be you who wins the position! Feel free to encourage others to apply as well.

In other news, last week the Ohio House passed its version of the state budget... which, in the words of Buckeye's own Greg Lawson, "will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform." That's not our gift to you.

Our second special May Day gift to the world is that Greg pulls no punches in his analysis of the House version in a new blog found here: [House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform](#).

We recommend enjoying it along with an aptly named cocktail!

There were some bright spots in the House budget, but unfortunately it failed to cut the \$800 million that the Governor and legislative leadership recently said was necessary. And the \$2.5 billion of "savings" it did find can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand. If you took a small sip of that aforementioned cocktail for every dollar that... wait, no. Don't do that.

If only a nationally recognized policy organization had offered a blueprint on where cost savings could be found in the budget... ahem, see our [Piglet Book](#)!

Fortunately, the House version is not the final budget, so policymakers still have time to take bold action. If you love policy analysis and budget reviews as much as we do, you'll want to read Greg's full analysis [here](#).

Happy May Day to one and all!

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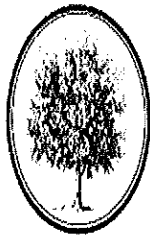
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# THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You're invited!

With the Ohio House passing its version of the budget, we know you are looking for something to do Wednesday evening.

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You're in luck, we have the perfect evening planned.

The Buckeye Institute, along with U.S. Justice Action Network, are hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

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Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

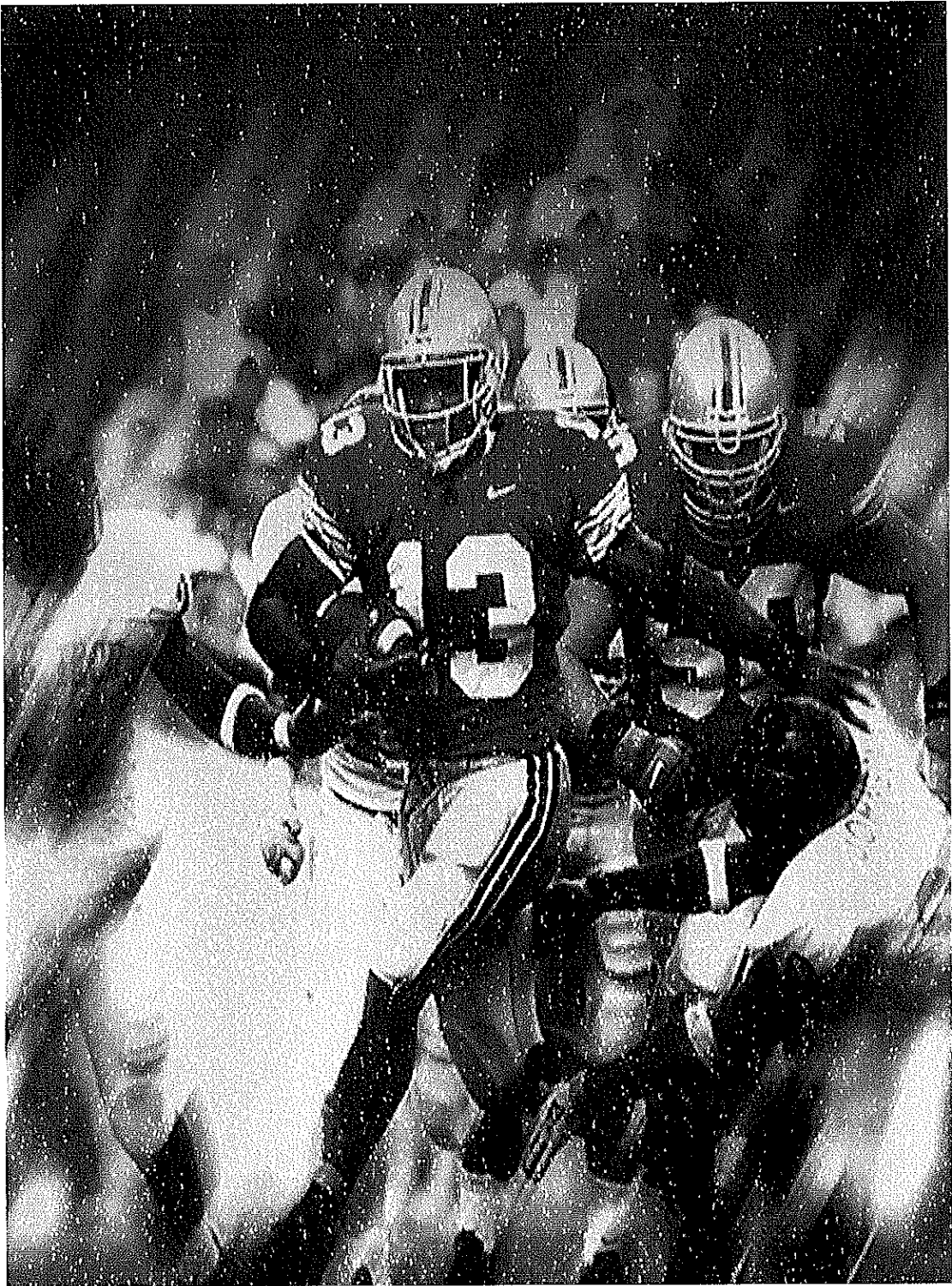
Wednesday, May 3



5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre  
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As a part of this campaign, the **Pacific Legal Foundation** is defending the Congressional Review Act in the case *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*. You can read their news release below and learn more about Red Tape Rollback campaign at [www.redtaperollback.com](http://www.redtaperollback.com).

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### PLF STEPS UP TO DEFEND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IN COURT

*As a leading CRA champion, PLF will litigate against an  
environmental group's confused constitutional challenge*

**Anchorage, Alaska; May 4, 2017:** Pacific Legal Foundation has just stepped forward to defend the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the 1996 statute that allows Congress to rein in bureaucracies by voiding harmful regulations.

PLF is the first of two groups to move to intervene against a federal lawsuit by an environmental activist group - the Center for Biological Diversity - which claims, astonishingly, that Congress and the president violate the Constitution when they pass a law that rescinds a bureaucracy's regulation. With its motion to intervene, PLF has also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that CBD's challenge has no basis in the Constitution, the Congressional Review Act, or court precedent and should be immediately booted out of court. PLF is the only group in the litigation that has sought a dismissal.

"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

Under the CRA, agencies must submit every rule they adopt to Congress for review. Congress then has a brief time to use expedited procedures to enact a resolution of disapproval and send it to the president for his signature. Congress and President Trump have used the CRA 13 times to void Obama Administration rules. CBD's lawsuit focuses on the rescinding of a regulation against hunting and trapping of predator species in Alaska's national refuges - a restriction that interfered with the state's ability to manage wildlife and outlawed responsible hunting practices, undermining opportunities to responsibly hunt for food or pursue income from guided hunts.

In seeking to intervene in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, in defense of the CRA's constitutionality, PLF represents itself along with several key hunting organizations and individuals. They include: Alaska Outdoor Council, Big Game Forever, and Alaska Master Guides Kurt Whitehead and Joe Letarte, both of whom also hunt in their personal time.

### **CRA is fully consistent with the Constitution**

"Schoolhouse Rock has taught generations of children how a bill becomes a law under the Constitution," said Todd Gaziano, PLF's DC Director and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, as well as the director of PLF's Red Tape Rollback project. "CBD could use a refresher. When a majority of both houses of Congress pass a bill disapproving an agency rule and the president signs it, we call that a law, and this applies as much to legislation passed under the CRA as to any other form of legislation. Laws enacted using the Congressional Review Act's procedures are fully consistent with the Constitution."

PLF's intervention in this litigation reflects its established role as a leading CRA champion. The Red Tape Rollback project, founded and overseen by PLF, is a multipronged program to educate Congress and the public on dynamic ways to deploy the CRA against regulatory overreach. A significant coalition of think tanks and public interest groups has joined this project, including The Club for Growth, The Heritage Foundation, The Buckeye Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and State Policy Network as Founding Partners; and Cause of Action Institute, R Street, Independent Women's Forum, and Center of the American Experiment as Partners.

"The Congressional Review Act is essential to restoring our elected representatives to their proper role overseeing the administrative state," Gaziano said. "As the foremost independent advocate for strategic use of the CRA, and as a leading litigator against regulatory abuses by the administrative state in general, PLF brings a unique interest and expertise to this litigation. For this reason, PLF's intervention is more than appropriate - it is essential."

The case is *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*.

### **Case Documents**

- [Motion to Intervene](#)
- [Motion to Dismiss](#)
- [Declaration of Gaziano for PLF](#)

### **About Pacific Legal Foundation**

Pacific Legal Foundation, America's most powerful ally for justice, litigates in courts nationwide for limited government, property rights, individual liberty, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

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"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

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"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

Under the CRA, agencies must submit every rule they adopt to Congress for review. Congress then has a brief time to use expedited procedures to enact a resolution of disapproval and send it to the president for his signature. Congress and President Trump have used the CRA 13 times to void Obama Administration rules. CBD's lawsuit focuses on the rescinding of a regulation against hunting and trapping of predator species in Alaska's national refuges - a restriction that interfered with the state's ability to manage wildlife and outlawed responsible hunting practices, undermining opportunities to responsibly hunt for food or pursue income from guided hunts.

In seeking to intervene in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, in defense of the CRA's constitutionality, PLF represents itself along with several key hunting organizations and individuals. They include: Alaska Outdoor Council, Big Game Forever, and Alaska Master Guides Kurt Whitehead and Joe Letarte, both of whom also hunt in their personal time.

### **CRA is fully consistent with the Constitution**

"Schoolhouse Rock has taught generations of children how a bill becomes a law under the Constitution," said Todd Gaziano, PLF's DC Director and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, as well as the director of PLF's Red Tape Rollback project. "CBD could use a refresher. When a majority of both houses of Congress pass a bill disapproving an agency rule and the president signs it, we call that a law, and this applies as much to legislation passed under the CRA as to any other form of legislation. Laws enacted using the Congressional Review Act's procedures are fully consistent with the Constitution."

PLF's intervention in this litigation reflects its established role as a leading CRA champion. The Red Tape Rollback project, founded and overseen by PLF, is a multipronged program to educate Congress and the public on dynamic ways to deploy the CRA against regulatory overreach. A significant coalition of think tanks and public interest groups has joined this project, including The Club for Growth, The Heritage Foundation, The Buckeye Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and State Policy Network as Founding Partners; and Cause of Action Institute, R Street, Independent Women's Forum, and Center of the American Experiment as Partners.

"The Congressional Review Act is essential to restoring our elected representatives to their proper role overseeing the administrative state," Gaziano said. "As the foremost independent advocate for strategic use of the CRA, and as a leading litigator against regulatory abuses by the administrative state in general, PLF brings a unique interest and expertise to this litigation. For this reason, PLF's intervention is more than appropriate - it is essential."

The case is *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*.

### **Case Documents**

- [Motion to Intervene](#)
- [Motion to Dismiss](#)
- [Declaration of Gaziano for PLF](#)

### **About Pacific Legal Foundation**

Pacific Legal Foundation, America's most powerful ally for justice, litigates in courts nationwide for limited government, property rights, individual liberty, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** Haavisto, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** press release for review

Hi Elizabeth,

A draft of the press release is below. Feel free to make edits and please provide a quote!

Thanks!

**Carolyn Best**

*Director of Communications*  
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Office Phone: 614.644.1739  
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635



**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*Majority Communications Department*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Elizabeth

Haavisto

March 9, 2017

(614) 466-9078

**Representative Hagan Named ALEC-FreedomWorks  
Legislator of the Week**

COLUMBUS—State Representative Christina Hagan (R-Marlboro Township) was recently named Legislator of the Week by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and FreedomWorks.

Rep. Hagan was recognized for her legislative work in the Ohio House and service to her community, as representative of the 50<sup>th</sup> House District. An active member of ALEC, Rep. Hagan has focused on various issues affecting Ohioans, including strengthening the state's vital small business sector, promoting states' rights and encouraging financial literacy through legislative initiatives.



#### QUOTE

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State Rep. Hagan is currently serving her third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. She represents the 50th House District, which includes portions of Stark County.

**From:** Merritt, Amanda

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:11 AM

**To:** Merritt, Amanda

**Subject:** RELEASE: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of Clinton County Local Government and School Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com

**Attachments:** 2017-05-10 Clinton County Local Govts & School join



**JOSH MANDEL**  
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

OhioCheckbook.com.jpg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mandi

Merritt

(614) 995-1783

May 10, 2017

\*\*\*Photo Included

**Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of Clinton  
County Local Government and School Checkbooks on  
OhioCheckbook.com**

*Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over  
1,100 Local Government and School Districts Partnering with  
OhioCheckbook.com*

WILMINGTON— Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced today the launch of the Wilmington City School District, Richland Township and Green Township's online checkbooks on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com). In December 2014, Treasurer Mandel launched [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com), which sets a new national standard for government transparency and for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet. [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) recently earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second year in a row.

The Ohio Treasurer's office was joined at today's announcement by Wilmington City Schools Treasurer Kim DeWeese.

Wilmington City Schools is the first school district in Clinton County to post their spending on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com), and Richland Township and Green Township are the third and fourth townships in Clinton County to post their spending on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com).

The following is a breakdown of today's local government sites:

- Wilmington City Schools' online checkbook includes over 18,900 individual transactions that represent more than \$31 million of total spending over Fiscal Year 2016.
- Richland Township's online checkbook includes over 3,600 individual transactions that represent more than \$796,000 of total spending over the past three years.
- Green Township's online checkbook includes over 1,800 individual transactions that represent more than \$577,000 of total spending over the past three years.

"I believe the people of Clinton County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com)," said Treasurer Mandel. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

"Wilmington City Schools is proud to partner with Treasurer Mandel to post our spending on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com)," said Wilmington City Schools Treasurer Kim DeWeese. "The setup process was easy and the service comes at no cost to our school district."

"I applaud Wilmington City Schools, Richland Township and Green Township for taking these steps toward greater transparency and accountability by joining this program," said Speaker of the Ohio House Cliff Rosenberger.

"I applaud Wilmington City Schools and other Clinton County local governments for participating in [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com)," said State Senator Bob Peterson. "It is important for taxpayers to see how their tax dollars are being spent in an easy and readily available way."

On April 7, 2015 Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

[OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of May 8, 2017 there have been more than 760,000 total searches on the site.

[OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com) displays more than \$585 billion in spending over the past nine years, including more than 159 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- "Google-style" contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,

- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

In March 2015, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “Following the Money 2015” report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel’s release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

In April 2016, U.S. PIRG announced that Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

The Treasurer’s office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. “Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer’s office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state,” said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

For more information or to view your local government website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com or click on:

- WilmingtonCitySchools.OhioCheckbook.com;
- RichlandTownshipClinton.OhioCheckbook.com;
- GreenTownshipClinton.OhioCheckbook.com.

####

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**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** Buckeye Praises Sentencing Commission Report and Offers Recommendations

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 15, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or [Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

### **Buckeye Praises Sentencing Commission Report and Offers Recommendations**

**Columbus, OH** - On Monday, The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center filed comments with the **Ohio Sentencing Commission** supporting its report *Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final Report*. The Buckeye Institute also suggested two amendments to the new rules (see full comments below or **download the PDF**).

"This report details significant problems in our current bail system and outlines critical evidence-based solutions that are sorely needed in Ohio," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "One-third of people in Ohio jails have not been convicted of a crime. Yet, taxpayer dollars are paying for these people to be taken away from their jobs and families simply because they can't afford bail. What Ohio needs is a system that uses proven risk assessment tools, such as those developed by the **Arnold**



**Foundation**, instead of using money to determine who can be safely released into the community."

Buckeye suggested two amendments to the new rules.

- First, the proposed rules unfortunately maintain outdated bail bond schedules that do not make an accurate, individual assessment of each defendant's flight risk or the risk he or she poses to the community. Instead, the rules should do away with bail bond schedules and require the courts to use vetted risk assessment tools to assess every defendant individually.
- Second, bail bonds serve two valid purposes -- protecting the community and ensuring that defendants return to court. However, new information and technology have made cash bail an antiquated practice with limited utility. Risk assessment tools, like those used in Lucas County, have proven to be more effective than current cash bail practices by every metric. The proposed rules should recognize that cash deposits do not make defendants less dangerous, and should therefore require that cash bail be used only as a last resort.

###

### **The Buckeye Institute Comments on Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final Report**

Ohio's Criminal Sentencing Commission has proposed rule changes that will help make our communities safer, our criminal justice system more just, and our local jails less crowded.

The Buckeye Institute supports the Commission's proposed changes, but we suggest two amendments to the new rules.

First, the proposed rules unfortunately maintain outdated bail bond schedules that do not make an accurate, individual assessment of each defendant's flight risk or the risk he or she poses to the community. Instead, the rules should do away with bail bond schedules and require the courts to use vetted risk assessment tools to assess every defendant individually.

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antiquated practice with limited utility. Risk assessment tools, like those used in Lucas County, have proven to be more effective than current cash bail practices by every metric. The proposed rules should recognize that cash deposits do not make defendants less dangerous, and should therefore require that cash bail be used only as a last resort.

### **Risk Assessment Tools**

Knowledge is power, and at the risk of sounding like a pizza commercial: better information, better decision-making. Businesses have long understood this and have gone to great lengths to enhance the data and information at their disposal in order to improve profit margins, create better experiences and products for their customers, and become more effective and efficient at whatever they do. Our favorite sports teams have more recently discovered the not-so-secret benefits of data collection. Teams now routinely use "analytics" to maximize their defense or point-scoring efficiency. Baseball teams employ the infield "shift" on some opposing power hitters who statistically do not hit to the opposite field. Basketball statisticians have shown that taking an uncontested three-point shot has more value and probability of success than shooting a contested layup. Analytics.

But "big data" is not just for "big business." Ohio can use data and analytics in her criminal justice system in much the same way that the Indians and Reds know when to shift the infield. The shortstop doesn't play behind second base against every batter.

Similarly, vetted risk assessment tools allow courts to collect statistically significant information from defendants in order to better determine whether a particular defendant poses much of a risk to the community or how likely he might be to skip town. These analytical tools do not set the terms or conditions of a defendant's release, but they can provide courts with better information to help them make better decisions. Courts in Lucas County, for example, are successfully using a risk assessment tool that, according to the Sentencing Commission Report, has already improved court appearance rates, public safety rates, and pretrial success rates-all while awarding more pretrial releases.[1] And more courts are following Lucas County's lead.

Unfortunately, the Sentencing Commission's proposed rule still refers to bail bonds schedules, the antithesis of individualized risk assessments.

### **Bail Schedules, Judicial Discretion, & Public Safety**

Mandatory bail schedules undermine judicial discretion without enhancing public safety. Unlike individualized risk assessments, prescribed bails schedules allow some defendants to remain in jail simply because they cannot afford the bail, while also releasing other, potentially more dangerous defendants merely because they can afford the fixed bail. What

bail a given defendant might afford, of course, has no reasonable bearing on the danger that he may present to the community-making it an imprudent means of securing our public safety. A dangerous defendant is dangerous regardless of the money he gives to the bail bond agent, and there are far more effective conditions of pre-trial release-such as electronic monitoring, periodic court check-ins, and required appointments with probation officers-that can help make our communities safer while dangerous defendants await trial.

There are limited circumstances when assessing cash bail makes sense. When an out-of-state defendant poses no threat to the community, for instance, but needs a financial inducement to return for his court date, a reasonable cash bond is likely to ensure his return. But ordinarily, cash bail is the least effective way to keep communities safe and should be the exception rather than the rule.

The final rule should abolish and not even refer to bail schedules. The Commission Report asks the legislature to do away with bail schedules, but the Ohio Supreme Court should exercise its constitutional authority to make this change unilaterally. Article I Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution states, in part, that "[p]rocedures for establishing the amount and conditions of bail shall be established pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Constitution of the state of Ohio." Article IV, Section 5(b) gives rule-making authority to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Thus, although state law requires (R.C. 2937.23(A)(2)) our courts to set bail schedules, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Ohio Constitution makes clear that an Ohio Supreme Court rule would supersede this law if the rule and the statute are inconsistent: "All laws in conflict with such rules shall be of no further force or effect after such rules have taken effect." The Supreme Court should use its constitutional authority to establish a new, unilateral rule on bail schedules for all Ohio courts to follow.

### **Conclusion**

To maximize public safety, justice, and local jail facilities, the Sentencing Commission's proposed rules should:

1. Prohibit bail bonds schedules; and
2. Acknowledge that cash bail is the least preferred condition of release that should only be used as a last resort to ensure a defendant's appearance in court.

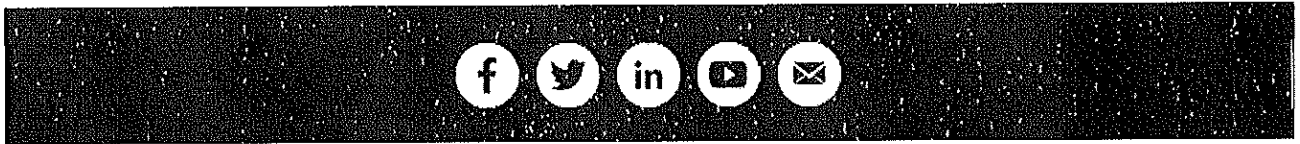
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[1] The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: *Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final Report*, at 9.

###

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Haavisto, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** RE: press release for review

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Carolyn,

I am so sorry I asked for this press release and didn't reply until now! Below is Rep. Hagan's quote as well. She asked for this to be sent state wide. Thank you!!

Best Regards,

**Elizabeth Haavisto**

Legislative Aide

Representative Christina Hagan | *House District 50*

77 South High Street, 13th Floor | Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office: (614)466-9078

[Elizabeth.Haavisto@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Haavisto@ohiohouse.gov)

---

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** Haavisto, Elizabeth <[Elizabeth.Haavisto@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Haavisto@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** press release for review

Hi Elizabeth,

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Thanks!

**Carolyn Best**

*Director of Communications*

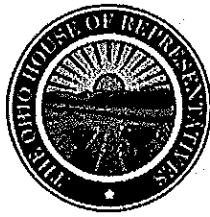
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger

Ohio House of Representatives

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office Phone: 614.644.1739

Cell Phone: 740.815.9635



# OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## *Majority Communications Department*

**For Immediate Release:**

March 9, 2017

Haavisto

**Contact:** Elizabeth

(614) 466-9078

### **Representative Hagan Named ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week**

COLUMBUS—State Representative Christina Hagan (R-Marlboro Township) was recently named Legislator of the Week by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and FreedomWorks.

Rep. Hagan was recognized for her legislative work in the Ohio House and service to her community, as representative of the 50<sup>th</sup> House District. An active member of ALEC, Rep. Hagan has focused on various issues affecting Ohioans, including strengthening the state's vital small business sector, promoting states' rights and encouraging financial literacy through legislative initiatives.

"I am honored to be recognized for my legislative work and service to our community," Rep. Hagan said.

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State Rep. Hagan is currently serving her third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. She represents the 50th House District, which includes portions of Stark County.

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy  
**CC:** Haavisto, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** PR ALERT: Hagan (sending at 2:35)  
**Attachments:** +Rep. Christina Hagan.jpg



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Majority Communications Department*

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May 16, 2017

Haavisto

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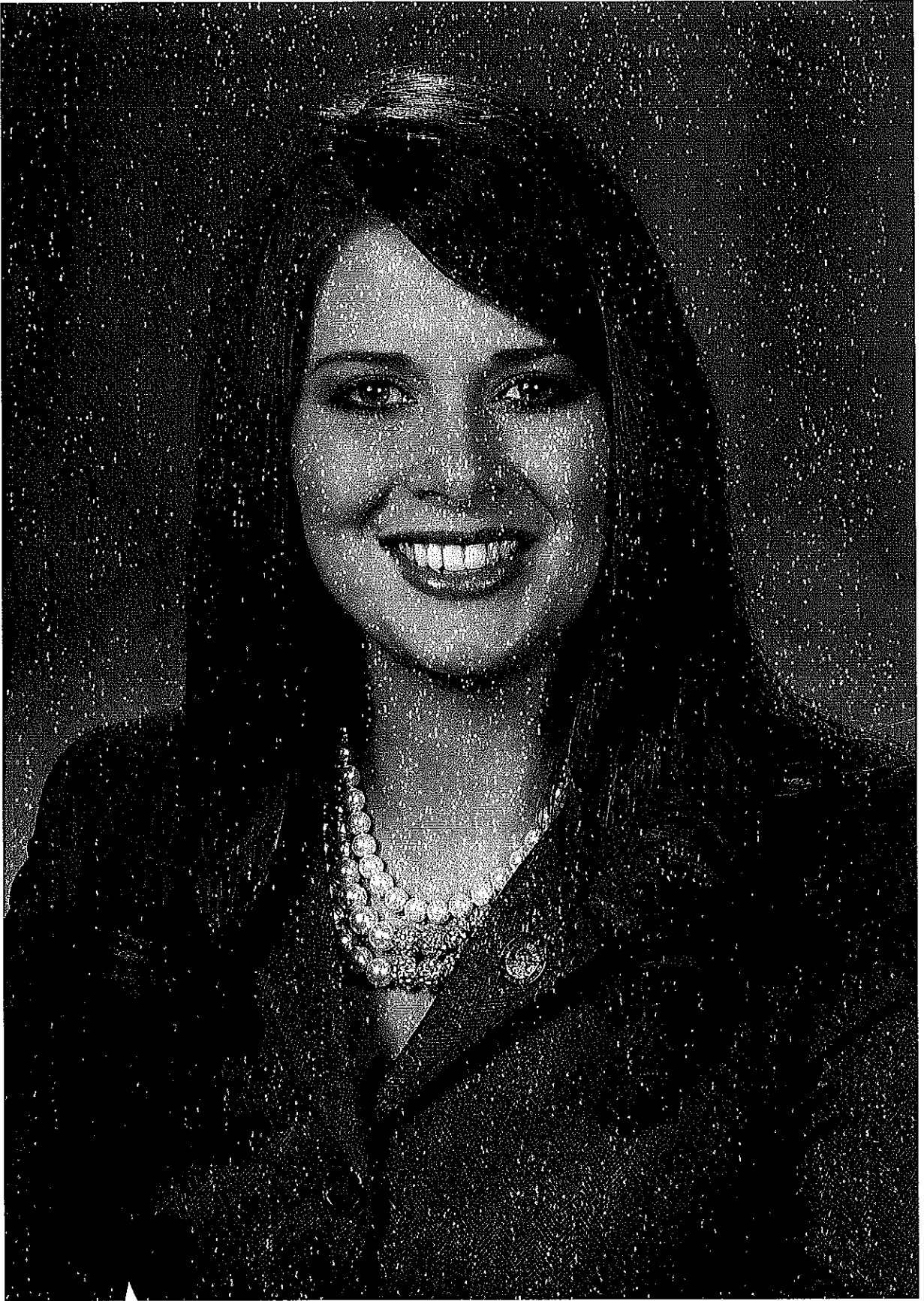
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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** Haavisto, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: press release for review

No problem—I just alerted. Thanks!

---

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Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger  
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## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**From:** The Buckeye Institute

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:30 PM

**To:** Best, Carolyn

**Subject:** Seasoning justice with mercy--and our #SensibleJustice event May 31

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

While the kids talk, tweet, and text in abbreviations that don't translate well into adult-speak, I sometimes wonder whether words matter anymore the way they did when I was in school studying Papa Shakespeare's work: that whole chestnut about a rose going by another name? Do our students even read Shakespeare to get that reference these days? Have they seen the Merchant of Venice to understand the concept of seasoning justice with mercy?

When The Buckeye Institute began its campaign in earnest 3 years ago to reform criminal justice laws in Ohio one by one, we didn't have a clever title or marketing name or the right words, if you will, to describe our project. We simply set out to get things done and took action toward our goal. And the results of our efforts were extraordinary and remain unmatched by any state in the entire country.

To highlight a few of the reforms we are working on right now, we are co-hosting an event next week (on Wednesday, see details below) and have come up with the right hash tag and title to capture what we are setting about to do: Sensible Justice. Incarcerate those who are dangerous to society, such as violent or sexual predators, and give those whose addictions are the primary

cause of their illegal activity the chance at redemption and rehabilitation in what is indisputably the smarter, more financially efficient, and more seasoned way to reduce crime.

Perhaps we should have named our campaign "seasoned justice" to borrow a phrase that Shakespeare coined so eloquently through Portia's statement to Shylock:

*The quality of mercy is not strained.  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed:  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest. It becomes  
The thronèd monarch better than his crown.  
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,  
The attribute to awe and majesty  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings,  
But mercy is above this scepter'd sway.  
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings.  
It is an attribute to God himself.  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice.*

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, May 31, for a roundtable discussion moderated by Buckeye's own Criminal Justice Fellow Daniel Dew at the Statehouse in Columbus to hear what actual practitioners in Ohio are doing to creatively and effectively reduce crime rates and recidivism, keep our communities safe, and enact sensible reforms. And, hey, there's an open bar. So let's join together to toast our extraordinary progress on criminal justice reforms in Ohio as well as Papa Shakespeare's uncanny mastery of the English language. Here's to The Buckeye Institute working with all of you to add dashes of mercy into our justice system.

## **Law, Order, and Sensible Justice Roundtable**

HOSTED BY: COALITION FOR PUBLIC  
SAFETY, THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE AND  
THE OHIO JUSTICE & POLICY CENTER

Wednesday, May 31  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

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### **Featuring:**

**Senator John Eklund**

=A

Ohio State Senate, District 18

**Carter Stewart**

Former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

**Captian Howard Rahtz (Ret.)**  
Cincinnati Police Department

**Judge John W. "Tim" Rudduck**  
Clinton County Common Please Court

###

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May 31, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or [Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

### **New Buckeye Institute Report:**

**= A**

### **ESAs Would Meet Ohio's Unique Educational Needs**

**Columbus, OH** - On Wednesday, The Buckeye Institute released its latest report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*, by **Greg R. Lawson** and **Lindsey Burke**. This timely new research assesses the benefits of educational savings accounts (ESAs) and calls on Ohio policymakers to adopt this innovative tool, which gives parents the ability to pay for the education services that best meet their child's individual needs, rather than being forced to use a one-size-fits-all model.

"The ESA concept builds upon Ohio's successes with a variety of scholarship programs such as EdChoice and will ensure that Ohio's children receive the education they deserve," said Lawson. "It also provides additional incentives that propel Ohio's educational system



forward from a 20<sup>th</sup> Century model into one nimble enough to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

### What is an Education Savings Account?



In the **report**, Lawson and Burke outline precisely how ESAs would enable parents to customize their child's education to meet his or her unique needs. For example, ESAs would allow parents to pay not only for private schools, but also allow them to use any remaining money in the account to pay for additional educational items such as textbooks, tutors, enroll students in online classes, or even save money for college.

"To enhance choices for families, infuse innovation into the K-12 sector, and ensure that education opportunities are as unique as the children they teach, Ohio should establish a universal ESA option that maximizes flexibility, accommodation, and parent-driven accountability, Lawson and Burke said in the report. "Ohio students deserve access to the best educational opportunities. Empowering all families to customize their children's

education through ESAs builds upon Ohio's existing school choice options to ensure that every child has instruction suited to their individual needs."

**See how Education Savings Accounts are Helping Families in Arizona, Florida, and Mississippi.**

In the report, Burke and Lawson suggest two potential funding mechanisms for ESAs.

One option is funding an ESA program much like the state funds charter schools. The state could place 90 percent of the full per-pupil amount (\$6,000) into an ESA account and send the remaining 10 percent to the student's originally assigned school district in order to defray a portion of the district's fixed costs.

A second option would deposit only the actual amount that the district would have received from the state into a student's ESA account. As Burke and Lawson note, though, while this mechanism might be easier to implement, it would also create less predictable ESA contributions.

In their conclusion, Lawson and Burke find that ESAs would ensure that every child has instruction more suited to his or her individual needs and would empower parents to make and afford educational choices for their children that meet those needs.

Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and served for five years on the boards of two Columbus-based charter schools. Burke is the director of the Center for Education Policy at the **Heritage Foundation** and the Will Skillman fellow in education policy. She is also a fellow at **EdChoice**.

###

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 1, 2017

### **Buckeye Urges Greater Spending Restraint and Tax Reform in Budget**

*Greg R. Lawson Testifies before Senate Finance Committee*

**Columbus, OH** - In testimony (scroll down for the complete testimony) before the Senate Finance Committee on Ohio's biennial budget (Sub. H. B. No. 49), **The Buckeye Institute's** Greg R. Lawson urged the Ohio Senate to "pursue meaningful reform" in a number of key policy areas that will reign in government spending, reform Ohio's tax code, increase educational choice and improve Ohio's criminal justice system.

= A

"State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years," said Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed."

Building on The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book**, and commentary written throughout the budget process (**What the Ohio Senate Should Do with the Biennial Budget** and **House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform**), Lawson outlined areas where the Ohio Senate can improve the budget and provided specific policy recommendations for the members to consider.

Lawson encouraged the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison** program's expansion;
- Returning to the governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

In concluding his testimony, Lawson praised the reforms lawmakers have made that have improved Ohio's economy. "Despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity."

###

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee on the Biennial Operating Budget**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow  
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

**June 1, 2017**

Thank you, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding the biennial budget. My name is Greg R. Lawson, and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** here in Columbus.

State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years.

That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed. The Buckeye Institute believes that the current budget proposal up for your consideration requires a number of critical changes in order to take full advantage of this biennial opportunity to make Ohio more prosperous. Our recommendations include changes to government spending, tax and education policies, Medicaid, and local government policies.

We would encourage the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the Governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the Governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP)** program's expansion;
- Returning to the Governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

With the Committee's permission, I will explain these recommendations in more detail.

## Spending

The House of Representative's budget *appears* to reduce Governor Kasich's budget proposal by \$12.8 billion over the fiscal years (FY) 2018-19. Unfortunately, much of the apparent reduction is unlikely to be realized. More than 96 percent of the House's on paper reductions manifest in two areas: a fiduciary pass-through account that collects municipal income taxes in order to redistribute them; and Medicaid.

First, the Governor's budget proposed a large increase to this account as part of the Governor's proposed business net-taxes filings. The House modified that proposal and thus reduced the Governor's expected appropriations by \$944 million.

Second, the House budget calls for significant reductions in Medicaid spending that, in our view, are unlikely to materialize. The House appropriates \$5.6 billion less than the Governor proposed for FY18, and \$5.8 billion less for FY19. This intentional underfunding dovetails nicely with the House's new "guard rails" on the Medicaid program that will require Controlling Board approval every six months in order to increase Medicaid spending, and assurances that the Administration is pursuing Medicaid reforms, including Healthy Ohio and other state innovation waivers.

We agree with these efforts to tether the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget, but we assume that the Administration will seek those waivers and that the Controlling Board will therefore release most of the Medicaid funds. Consequently, the House's "reductions" will likely prove illusory.

Accordingly, we believe that further reductions in state spending are needed to keep Ohio's budget in the black and allow for meaningful tax reform. The Buckeye Institute urges renewed focus on spending outside core government services, namely, spending associated with the arts, marketing assistance for Ohio's grape industry, and other examples of earmarks and public spending on private businesses that effectively allows the government to pick "winners and losers" in the marketplace.

My testimony includes an attached copy of The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book** for more specific spending-cut recommendations.

## Taxes

The Buckeye Institute has long argued that Ohio should eliminate its personal income tax, and Governor Kasich has kept his promise to reduce the burden of the income tax on all Ohio families, most recently with a 6.3 percent reduction in income tax rates in 2015.

In 2016, Ohio's per capital labor income, per capita investment income, and the employed population grew faster than in most Midwest states due, in no small part, to the Administration's tax cuts that also helped Ohio's per capita economic output outperform the national average.

Although we agree with the general direction of Mr. Kasich's tax policy, we differ on a few specifics.

Like the Governor, we want Ohio's small businesses eventually to pay no income tax, but the current small business tax deduction appears to create a great deal of tax shifting and has meant significant declines in revenue. We believe it will prove more sustainable to lower these deductions and give Ohio's tax brackets an across-the-board rate cut. The Senate should explore other areas, such as phasing down the property tax rollback by one or two percent, to offset revenue losses and pay for an across-the-board rate cut. A one percent rollback reduction, for instance, could yield tens of millions in savings over the biennium, and a two percent cut could save over \$100 million.

Currently, the state pays 10 percent of property taxes for all Ohioans, and for those who live in their home the state pays an additional 2.5 percent. Thus the state sets aside more than \$1.8 billion in general revenues each fiscal year to reimburse local governments for local decisions. Since the property tax rollback program was adopted when Ohio began imposing an income tax, the amount spent on the program should be cut as Ohio's income tax declines. The Senate also should consider means testing the rollback beyond our suggested phased-in reduction.

Finally, because Ohio's municipal tax structure remains a daunting labyrinth, especially for smaller businesses, The Buckeye Institute recommends returning to the Governor's proposed municipal income tax reform. Should it remain optional for businesses to file net-profits municipal income taxes, however, we encourage the Senate at least to guarantee that taxpayers do not pay an administrative fee for filing net-profits taxes.

## **Education**

The Senate should retain the basic outline of the current education budget but should *not* increase appropriations beyond those made by the House. We would urge the Senate to



return to the Governor's proposed appropriation levels and remove "safe harbor" provisions that unfairly restrict eligibility for EdChoice scholarships.

The House budget rightly embraced the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal that begins unwinding the "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the Foundation Funding Formula. Money should follow students and *not* just be used as a mechanism for funding the education "system" and its ever-expanding bureaucracy.

The Senate should also eliminate or reform the current "safe harbor" provision that denies parents school-choice options by preventing hundreds of schools across the state from being eligible for EdChoice scholarships.

### **Medicaid**

We think that the Senate should embrace the House budget's language on Medicaid and state innovation waivers-including resubmitting the Healthy Ohio waiver-and add deadlines for submitting those waivers to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additionally, the Senate should include language that maintains the Administration's flexibility to improve Ohio's health care system.

Ohio's 2015 budget instructed the Kasich Administration to seek a state innovation waiver granting some freedom from onerous regulations under the Affordable Care Act. The new Secretary of HHS has encouraged states to pursue innovation waivers and the Senate should expand on 2015's waiver instructions and encourage Mr. Kasich's Administration to pursue waivers that will lower premiums. The Senate should include a reinsurance component similar to the waiver submitted by Alaska (and touted by HHS) that could reduce insurance premiums for Ohioans.

Some providers are understandably concerned about Governor Kasich's proposal to shift many aged, blind, and disabled Medicaid recipients into managed care. This process should be closely monitored and evaluated, of course, but continued delay will likely mean higher costs and less coordination of care, and we recommend adopting the Governor's proposal in this area.

### **Criminal Justice**

The Buckeye Institute supports the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's budget proposal dealing with the TCAP program. As we testified before the House, we support policies that would rehabilitate low-level offenders in their communities. The Senate

should return to Governor Kasich's proposal or, at the very least, should maintain the proposal in the House budget.

Rehabilitating low-level offenders in the community is twice as effective as state incarceration at one-third the cost, and watering down the TCAP provisions even further would significantly dilute the policy's potency.

### **Local Government**

The Senate should further reduce the Local Government Fund (LGF). The House appropriations call for \$388.1 million in FY18 and \$393.5 million in FY19. The Buckeye Institute has suggested eliminating the LGF entirely, which would save more than \$781 million over the coming biennium. At the very least, we think that the Senate should return to the Governor's proposal and direct LGF dollars to those communities that have the greatest difficulty raising requisite revenues locally.

Separately, the Senate should not increase or make permanent distributions to counties for lost sales tax revenue due to the eliminated Medicaid Managed Care Organization tax. Those tax dollars were windfalls that counties obtained through piggyback sales tax systems. If new funds are needed to pay for local issues, then those dollars should be raised at the local level and not become a Columbus-based subsidy that obscures the true cost of local government from local taxpayers.

### **Occupational Licensing**

To help more Ohioans secure gainful employment, the Senate should eliminate, or at least reduce, state-imposed hurdles and licensing fees strewn throughout the House's budget.

The Senate should also include language from the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly's Senate Bill 329 that would require the state to seek the "least restrictive form of regulation" for occupational licensing. This would clarify Ohio's interest in maintaining public safety without denying people employment prospects and opportunities. This language cleared both chambers of the General Assembly last year, and Governor Kasich's veto concerned SB 329's agency sun-setting provisions and not the "least restrictive form of regulation" language.

### **Controlling Board Reform**

The Senate should build upon the House's effort to reassert legislative power over spending through reasonable reforms to the Controlling Board. The House capped the windfall money that could be obligated by the Controlling Board at \$10 million, and the Senate should maintain the House's cap. The Senate should also eliminate the Controlling Board's authority to raise occupational license fees by up to 50 percent-a roadblock for people trying to secure well-paying jobs. Alternatively, the Senate should lower the occupational licensing fee cap to 25 percent.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

###

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**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn  
**CC:** Zielinski, Justin; 'statesenator29@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Here is the info about the advocacy day that the union has planned. We have committee planned for 10 am to hear sponsor and proponent so it looks like that should time well with their schedule.

*Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS*

*Best,*

*Elise Geig*

Majority Policy Advisor | Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office: 614.644.0380 | Mobile: 614.371.7554

[Elise.geig@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Elise.geig@ohiohouse.gov)

**From:** Laurel Johnson [mailto:LJohnson@ohsers.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:55 PM  
**To:** Geig, Elise <Elise.Geig@ohiohouse.gov>; Bethany Rhodes <Bethany.Rhodes@orsc.org>; Jeff Bernard <Jeff.Bernard@orsc.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Hi Elise and Bethany – I wanted to send you the OAPSE rally notice for June 7 so you had the details. Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks.

---

Laurel J. Johnson, APR  
Senior Government Relations Officer

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio  
300 East Broad Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 222-5918  
[ljohnson@ohsers.org](mailto:ljohnson@ohsers.org)

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**Subject:** Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7  
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PENSIONS!**

OAPSE/AFSCME

**OAPSE / AFSCME**  
*SERS Update*

Do you have letters of endorsement? Yes

**Project Title:** Restore OSSO Collier Chapel Meeting space

**Project Rank:** Recommended Project

**Short Description:** The Collier Chapel was constructed in 1872 and is in desperate need of renovation and upgrades. Athletes In Action is needing this as usable space for the expected increase to 300,000 annual visitors on campus upon the completion of the Wooden Family Fieldhouse. The money will be used for interior renovation, upgrades of HVAC, electrical, ceiling, plumbing and other internal improvements.

**Requester:** Athletes in Action  
651 Taylor Dr.  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
Greene County

**Intended Recipient:** Recipient Same as Requester

**Type of Organization:** Non-profit

**Location of Project:** Xenia, Greene County (Ohio 10th Congressional District)

**Funding Requested:** \$500,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Funding Sources:** Rooney Fund - \$275,000 Athletes in Action - \$100,000 in the next 5 years

**Use of Funds:** Construction or Capital

**Matching Funds?** No

**Budget Completed?** No

**Ready to Spend:** Immediately

**Potential Funding:** Not that we are aware of.

**Community Need:**

Collier Chapel will be made available for use by non profit and educational institutions for meetings, retreats and conferences. The Collier Chapel and cemetery is significant to maintain the history of the OSSO orphanage.

**What is the measurement that will be used to determine whether the project was successful?**

We want the building to be positioned for use by non profit and educational institutions for the next 50 years without any major repairs. We also want to provide a quality experience for the additional 300,000 visitors to the Athletes in Action campus, city of Xenia and Greene County.

**Job Creation:**

| Direct new jobs created within the next two years | Direct existing jobs retained within the next two years | Total job creation over the next 10 years (including "spin-off" jobs) | Average salary of jobs created over the next 10 years |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| None                                              | 1 to 10                                                 | 26 to 50                                                              | \$25,001-\$50,000                                     |

**In which county will most of the jobs be created?** Greene

**Are you aware of any opposition to the project?** No opposition.

**Do you have letters of endorsement?** No

**Project Title:** Tait Station Low Dam Removal

**Project Rank:** 10

**Short Description:** The project will improve the biologic, physical and chemical properties of the Great Miami River by removing the Tait Station Low Dam. The dam removal addresses a safety hazard and obstacle to water recreation activities on the Great Miami River. Increasing eco-tourism is a priority goal for the region and state. Originally constructed in 1935 as part of a coal fired electric generating plant; the original purpose of the dam became obsolete in the early 1980's.

**Requester:** Miami Conservancy District  
38 E. Monument Ave.  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Montgomery County

**Intended Recipient:** Miami Conservancy District, Dayton, Ohio (Montgomery County)

**Type of Organization:** Government

**Location of Project:** Dayton, Montgomery County (Ohio 10th Congressional District)

**Funding Requested:** \$1,689,836

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,689,836

**Funding Sources:** The Miami Conservancy District self-funded the study needed to test and evaluate water quality of current river conditions (\$5,000); and self-funded the study needed to evaluate the scope and cost the removal of the dam (\$26,500) .

**Use of Funds:** Construction or Capital

**Matching Funds?** Yes. Some local matching funds are available through the River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict.

**Budget Completed?** Yes

**Ready to Spend:** Immediately

**Potential Funding:** Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program

**Community Need:**

The Great Miami River is a significant quality of life asset to the region and the state. It is a popular regional recreation destination and when the River Run project is complete in downtown Dayton, there will be an increase in river traffic. The Tait Station Low Dam poses a significant safety hazard for river users. Anyone that floats over the dam might be caught in the dangerous downstream current and trapped under water. Fatal accidents have occurred at similar dams in the region. Removing the Tait Station Low Head dam will eliminate a safety hazard and improve water quality. Providing safe conditions on the river is critical.

*What is the measurement that will be used to determine whether the project was successful?*

Increased river usage in that area will be a result of eliminating the safety hazard the Tait Low Dam creates. Removing the dam will also improve the health of the river. Testing of the biology and chemistry will be used to measure the impact on water quality improvement and the habitat. Testing was conducted by the University of Dayton and the Miami Conservancy District in 2014 to evaluate the current conditions prior to dam removal and that will be used as the baseline.

**Job Creation:**

| Direct new jobs created within the next two years | Direct existing jobs retained within the next two years | Total job creation over the next 10 years (including "spin-off" jobs) | Average salary of jobs created over the next 10 years |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 to 10                                           | None                                                    | None                                                                  | \$25,001-\$50,000                                     |

**In which county will most of the jobs be created?** Montgomery

**Are you aware of any opposition to the project?** No.

**Do you have letters of endorsement?** No



---

*Project Title:* Triumph of Flight

*Project Rank:* Recommended Project

*Short Description:* This monument will act as a branding agent for Ohio's aviation/aerospace industry. It will be 270 feet tall, soaring above the intersection of I-70/75, visible up to 3 miles away to the occupants of 53 million passing vehicles per year. Millions more internationally will see it in the news, and in business and travel publications. The site will include a reflecting pool, public art depicting Ohio's role in aviation history, an Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame, and an Education Center.

*Requester:* Wright Image Group, Inc.  
1605 N. Main St.  
Dayton, Ohio 45405  
Montgomery County

*Intended Recipient:* Recipient Same as Requester

*Type of Organization:* Non-profit

*Location of Project:* Butler Township, Montgomery County (Ohio 10th Congressional District)

*Funding Requested:* \$10,566,500

*Total Project Cost:* \$20,600,000

*Funding Sources:* Significant support has been received from many individuals and organizations throughout the state. Donors have provided over \$1,847,000 in both cash and services (marketing, engineering, etc.). These donations are characterized as follows:

- \$600,000

*Use of Funds:* Construction or Capital

*Matching Funds?* No

*Budget Completed?* Yes

*Ready to Spend:* Within the next 6–12 months

*Potential Funding:* This project qualifies as a Cultural Facility Project under the auspices of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

State funds will be used in two other categories listed in question 34 - Land Acquisition and Planning or Studies. Land has been committed by Singer Properties, but must be formally purchased even though cost will be trivial. Planning entails completion of design, preparation of construction drawings, and contract bidding. Actual construction, however, will be the bulk of the funds.

*Community Need:*

The primary purpose of the monument is to act as a branding agent for Ohio, specifically to help promote its long-standing prominence in the aviation/aerospace industry in a way to capture future business presence and investment, as well as significant tourism dollars. The primary benefit will be to attract attention to the past and present accomplishments of that industry within Ohio, as well as highlighting its yet-unrealized potential.

The Triumph of Flight will also remind Americans that Ohio is the rightful birthplace of aviation. Located in the heart of the 8 counties in SW Ohio that comprise the only federally-designated National Heritage Area dedicated to aviation, it will draw additional attention to all the partners of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance - the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, e.g., and seventeen other important aviation related sites. The monument will help connect people to many important aviation and aerospace events and sites all across Ohio in surprising ways and will develop statewide attention for Dayton.

A third significant benefit will be its contribution to education across the state. Throughout the planning and construction of this project we have taken videos and collected data to be used in development of important and voluminous teacher materials. Through the good offices of the Ohio Aerospace Institute we have already had several universities express interest in helping to develop related STEM, history, art, and business lessons for many grade levels. The site itself will provide facilities to support visits by students of all ages to immerse themselves in the state's rich aviation history and aviation-centered public art.

The Triumph of Flight will also create a new and growing sense of pride resulting from the international recognition the project will bring. This will become a state-wide hallmark of American ingenuity and a continuing reminder of the technological prominence described and honored at the site.

*What is the measurement that will be used to determine whether the project was successful?*

Jobs created or retained. Construction itself will involve over 600 people locally and an equal number across the state. The project will also augment the efforts of JobsOhio and the DDC to attract new business investment to Ohio, expanding the state's current \$10B annual investment in aviation/aerospace R&D, and shining a spotlight on the more than 1300 aerospace companies already in Ohio. Chmura Economics and Analytics reports that, largely because it is under-emphasized, Ohio's aerospace industry has the most unrealized potential of the nine industries the state has targeted for growth. The Triumph of Flight will be a useful tool in addressing that unrealized potential. Ohio's past industry investment is wide-spread and the industry future is elastic. Long term, this project will help strengthen state-wide efforts to retain over 50,000 industry-related jobs during a time of shrinking government spending on defense.

In addition to state-wide aviation/aerospace expansion, this project will boost the regional hospitality and tourism industry by putting more people in restaurant seats, in hotel beds, and in front of museum exhibits. For example, both during construction and increasingly more every year afterwards, we would expect a dramatic impact on the nearby Miller Lane economic community. See the attachment, "Economic Impact From the Triumph of Flight."

*Job Creation:*

| <i>Direct new jobs created within the next two years</i> | <i>Direct existing jobs retained within the next two years</i> | <i>Total job creation over the next 10 years (including "spin-off" jobs)</i> | <i>Average salary of jobs created over the next 10 years</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 251 to 500                                               | 501 to 1,000                                                   | 501 to 1,000                                                                 | Under \$25,000                                               |

*In which county will most of the jobs be created?* Montgomery

*Are you aware of any opposition to the project?* No.

*Do you have letters of endorsement?* Yes

**From:** Gov. Kasich Comm. Dept.  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 2:46 PM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** NEWS: Ohio gained 15,200 jobs; unemployment rate 4.7% in December

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **Ohio gained 15,200 jobs; unemployment rate 4.7% in December**

January 22, 2016  
By Olivera Perkins

Ohio gained 15,200 jobs in December, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services reported Friday.

The state's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, up from 4.5 percent in November.

[...]

The state's unemployment rate may have increased despite Ohio gaining jobs because more people were confident they could find work. People are only counted as unemployed if they are not only jobless, but actively seeking employment.

"Part of the increase in the unemployment rate is actually a good sign," wrote Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Buckeye Institute in Columbus, in an email. "It reflects more people coming back into the labor market."

George Zeller of Cleveland, an economic research analyst, said the increase in the labor force in December was promising.

Read the full article [here](#).

**From:** Smith, Kristen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2016 8:15 AM  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/2/2016

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

### 02/02/16



#### **LABOR-BACKED GROUP REMINDS OHIOANS OF UNION LAW'S DEFEAT**

A labor-backed group that helped defeat collective bargaining restrictions in Ohio says it's using the five-year anniversary of the union law to remind supporters to stay active and engaged in its efforts.

#### **OHIO SUPREME COURT HEARS INJURY LAWSUIT OVER POLICE CHASE**

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of a woman who sued police over injuries she suffered after a high-speed chase ended with a burglary suspect colliding with her car.

#### **OHIO PROSECUTOR SEEKS NEW LAW ON POLICE USE-OF-FORCE PROBES**

A county prosecutor in Cleveland wants the Ohio Legislature to amend state laws to allow the Ohio attorney general to present deadly police use-of-force cases to grand juries.

#### **OHIO COURT APPROVES CLASS ACTION IN SPEED CAMERA CASE**

A state appeals court approved class action status on Monday for thousands of motorists fined for speeding in a southwest Ohio village with citations issued from automatic camera enforcement.

#### **LEGAL COSTS INVOLVING CONVICTED OHIO JUDGE COULD REACH \$1.7M**

The cost of court cases brought for and against a juvenile court judge in southwest Ohio who was convicted of a felony charge after a legal battle over her election as judge could reach nearly \$1.7 million.

**The Columbus Dispatch**  
*Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

**WITH FOCUS NOW ON NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOR KASICH IT'S DO OR DIE**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich knows his presidential campaign won't survive a poor showing in next week's New Hampshire primary, and his schedule reflects it.

#### **GROVE CITY SENDS 'PUPPY MILL' BILL BACK FOR MORE WORK**

The sponsor of legislation that would have banned the sale of "puppy mill" animals in Grove City withdrew the proposal Monday night, vowing to come up with "a clean ordinance."

#### **OHIO'S HIGHER PRESCHOOL SPENDING STILL LAGS MOST STATES**

Ohio's spending on public preschool programs increased this year, like most states.

#### **KASICH TO MAKE HEAVY PUSH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AHEAD OF PRIMARY**

It's do or die for Ohio Gov. John Kasich's presidential campaign over the next week in New Hampshire, and his schedule reflects it.

#### **OHIO POLITICS NOW: A LOOK AT IOWA AND BEYOND TO NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Now that people are finally going to start voting (or caucusing as the case is in Iowa today) we get a look at how much the presidential candidates have to get their word out to voters.

#### **OHIO POLITICS NOW: 'THE REAL RACE BEGINS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE' KASICH CAMPAIGN SAYS**

A couple of surprises from the Iowa caucuses could affect how Ohio Gov. John Kasich fares in the New Hampshire primary one week from today.

#### **KASICH GETS MOST OF HIS CAMPAIGN CASH FROM OHIO**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich may not be leading most other presidential candidates in fundraising, but he can take some comfort in the fact that he's doing far better than any of them in the state that twice elected him governor.

#### **MARY TAYLOR COMMITTEE RAISED \$146,500 LAST YEAR**

Onward Ohio, the nonprofit political organization formed by Republican Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor to elevate her visibility ahead of a potential run for governor in 2018, raised six-figures in a few months.

**Dayton Daily News**

[www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

#### **KASICH DONORS INCLUDE SCHWARZENEGGER**

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was among the \$2,700 donors to Republican Gov. John Kasich's presidential campaign committee, records filed with the Federal Election Commission Sunday show.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **JOHN KASICH'S TEAM ON IOWA CAUCUS FINISH: 'THE REAL RACE BEGINS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich had no expectations for the Iowa caucuses.

### **IOWA IN THE BOOKS, NEW HAMPSHIRE IS NEXT, AND JOHN KASICH IS ALREADY LOOKING TO SOUTH CAROLINA: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP**

Iowa is done. New Hampshire is next. John Kasich smacks down his super PAC.

### **PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES JOIN JOHN KASICH ON NEW HAMPSHIRE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: WHAT TO WATCH FOR TUESDAY**

With the Iowa caucuses over, many presidential candidates will spend Tuesday in New Hampshire, including Republicans Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump, as well as Democrats Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders.

### **REPUBLICAN LOBBYING FIRM OPENS CLEVELAND OFFICE, HIRES TOP CUYAHOGA GOP OFFICIAL**

A Republican lobbying firm with Cleveland roots is expanding its presence here by opening a Playhouse Square office and hiring Cuyahoga County's top GOP official.

## **THE ENQUIRER**

### **IOWA CAUCUS SURPRISES MAY HURT JOHN KASICH'S NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY EFFORT**

John Kasich gained only about 2 percentage points in the Iowa caucus Monday night, but so did his top rivals, boosting his campaign's hope for a strong showing in New Hampshire.

### **TWO GOPERS FEUD OVER LIQUOR CABINET**

GOP challenger Courtney Combs says Rep. Wes Retherford treated the statehouse like a frat house, but the incumbent argues that one drink cabinet in his office wasn't improper.

### **IN NH, KASICH ADS LEAD TO ANGST**

John Kasich says his rivals should follow his lead and call on the super PACs supporting them to take down negative advertisements.

## **THE BLADE** One of America's Great Newspapers

### **KASICH DIGS IN FOR FINAL STRETCH IN N.H.**

Gov. John Kasich has started his final week in New Hampshire, banking on a breakout performance for his presidential aspirations.

### **CVS TO SELL OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE TO ANYONE**

Christa Lammers told a packed audience of politicians, local law enforcement, health-care workers, and substance abuse officials Monday that her brother Jeffrie Shirey, 37, was a heroin addict.

**CantonRep.com**  
CONNECTING STARS COUNTY

### **OHIO HIGH COURT PACKS DRILLING RIGHTS IN YEARS-LONG CASE**

A years-long battle over oil and gas leases ended last month when the Ohio Supreme Court upheld contract language that underpins drilling rights on thousands of properties across the state.

### **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER HELPS KASICH CAMPAIGN WITH MAX DONATION**

Republican Gov. John Kasich's presidential campaign committee and the independent organization supporting him spent \$11.4 million during the final three months of last year as part of his effort to finish among the top three contenders in next week's New Hampshire primary.

### **EDITORIAL: STATE LEGISLATOR BELITTLES OPPONENT**

The photo caught our eye, not only because we thought it was cute, but also because it showed the dedication state Rep. Christina Hagan, R-Marlboro Township, has for her job.

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** Reed, Bob  
**Subject:** RE: articles  
**Attachments:** Ohio\_House\_Budget\_is\_a\_Big\_Step\_Forward.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

From Buckeye Institute

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**From:** Reed, Bob  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:30 PM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** RE: articles

Thank you!

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**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** Reed, Bob  
**Subject:** RE: articles

I can keep looking, but wanted to make sure you saw the national ones.

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**From:** Reed, Bob  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:28 PM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** RE: articles

Was there nothing in-state?

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**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:27 PM  
**To:** Reed, Bob  
**Subject:** articles

Hi Bob,

Are these the articles you're looking for?



<http://www.wsj.com/articles/ohio-needs-a-second-dose-of-labor-reform-1429913774>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/417260/labor-reforms-sweep-midwest-james-sherk>

## **Carolyn Best**

*Director of Communications*  
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Office Phone: 614.644.1739  
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635



# Executive Summary

## Ohio House Budget is a Big Step Forward

By Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio House of Representatives unveiled a budget proposal that makes significant growth-oriented improvements and proposes spending *less* money from the General Revenue Fund than the Governor's budget—a true rarity in state budget politics that deserves applause and appreciation.

The House budget advances Ohio in four key ways:

- Pro-growth tax policy
- Medicaid reforms
- Less spending
- Labor reforms

The House budget proposal provides a good start on many key fiscal issues, while highlighting just how much reform and work still needs to be done to make Ohio stronger and more competitive. The House has removed practically all of the Governor's anti-growth tax increases, while advancing a number of sound tax strategies that are pro-growth and make the tax code more equitable. In an effort to reform Medicaid and make costs more transparent, the House budget looks to seek federal waivers to allow health savings accounts in Medicaid coverage. And finally, the House budget initiates a much-needed labor reform by freeing public works projects from the costly and inefficient project labor agreements dictated by unions.

Despite the need for further reforms and cost-cutting measures, under the House plan wasteful spending will be more carefully scrutinized, less money will flow from the General Revenue Fund, Medicaid will be more transparent, government construction contracts will be more competitive, and Ohio taxpayers will keep more of their hard-earned money. For these notable improvements, we say "Thank you."



# POLICY REPORT

Policy Report - April 17, 2015

## Ohio House Budget is a Big Step Forward

By Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols

The budget proposal unveiled by the Ohio House of Representatives on April 14<sup>th</sup> makes significant growth-oriented improvements to the Governor's proposal and advances Ohio in four key areas.

- **Pro-growth tax policy:** The current House budget removes practically all of the anti-growth tax increases proposed by the Governor, and maintains some of the Governor's pro-growth components. Although the House version could do more to transition Ohio from an income tax system to a consumption tax system, the proposed reductions to the income tax offer marked improvement.
- **Medicaid reforms:** While the Obamacare expansion continues to loom over the budget, the House has introduced reforms to mitigate the damage. The House proposal seeks waivers from the federal government to allow the use of health savings accounts (HSAs) in Medicaid coverage and to increase employment efforts for Medicaid recipients. HSAs allow individuals to control their healthcare expenditures and makes costs more transparent.
- **Less spending:** General Revenue Fund expenditures are almost \$777 million lower in the House budget, demonstrating their commitment to restoring fiscal responsibility. The House budget trims growth in operational expenses and restricts some programs to 2015 funding levels. The proposed Expenditure Committee promises to be an ongoing force for budgetary discipline, identifying inefficiency and waste.
- **Labor reforms:** The House budget bill makes several forward-thinking labor reforms that promise to rein in government spending in the future. Public works contractors will no longer be forced into union-designed project labor agreements, leading to a more competitive bidding process. Charter school employees who join federal unions are excluded from state retirement systems, preventing a deluge of red tape and pension liabilities from drowning the state.

## Pro-growth Tax Policy

As we noted in *Tax Reform Principles for Ohio*, sound tax policy must be pro-growth, simple, transparent, and equitable.<sup>1</sup> The House budget adheres to a pro-growth and equitable tax policy by removing practically all of the growth-killing tax increases proposed by the Governor, while still retaining some of his better pro-growth ideas.

For example, the House budget reduces tax rates by 6.3% across all nine of Ohio's progressive tax brackets.<sup>2</sup> The top marginal tax rate will fall from approximately 5.3% to 4.9% and represents an overall \$1.2 billion tax cut. Aside from corporate taxes, income taxes hinder long-term economic growth the most, so cutting top marginal rates advances a sound pro-growth policy.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Ohio House budget removes some tax hikes that would have targeted specific industries like energy and tobacco. No tax code should be picking winners or losers. By eliminating these tax hikes, the House budget makes the tax code more equitable for Ohio businesses.<sup>4</sup>

### *Severance Tax*

The House removed a massive, inequitable severance tax hike from the state budget, sticking to a sound principle of equitable taxation.

Oil and gas drilling in Ohio's Utica shale has brought billions of investment dollars into the state, which has created new jobs for Ohioans, lowered energy prices, and boosted local government revenues. Governor Kasich again proposed a large severance tax increase that would threaten this economic boon and is neither pro-growth nor equitable. Kasich's proposal would increase the severance tax on a barrel of oil by 1,588%, penalizing shale production and drastically reducing new investment, jobs, and energy production in Ohio.<sup>5</sup> Shale drillers would curb or cut-off future investment and look to other states for future exploration and opportunities.

The Governor's proposal violated the principle of tax equity by taxing shale drillers' revenues at a much higher rate than those of other businesses.<sup>6</sup> Drillers would pay a severance tax of 4.5% to 6.5% on their gross receipts *in addition to* the 0.32% commercial activity tax

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1 Rea Hederman, Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols, "Tax Reform Principles for Ohio," The Buckeye Institute, February 2, 2015,

[http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Tax\\_Reform\\_Principles\\_for\\_Ohio\(FINAL\).pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Tax_Reform_Principles_for_Ohio(FINAL).pdf).

2 "Legislative Service Commission," Comparison Document – HB 64," Legislative Service Commission April 14, 2015, <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc131/h1/comparedoc-hb64-h1.pdf>.

3 *Ibid.*

4 *Ibid.*

5 Energy Information Administration, "Cushing, OK WTI Spot Price FOB," Energy Information Administration, April 13, 2015, accessed April 15, 2015, <http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=RWTC&f=D>. If prices return to the 2013 annual average of \$97.98, the tax would increase by 3,084%. See Energy Information Administration, "Spot Prices, Annual 2013," accessed April 15, 2015, [http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_pri\\_spt\\_s1\\_a.htm](http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_spt_s1_a.htm).

6 *Ibid.*

that most Ohio businesses pay. The House stripped this punitive provision from the budget and should be commended for it.

#### *Cigarette Tax*

Governor Kasich proposed raising the cigarette tax by \$1 to \$2.25 per pack. The Governor also proposed raising the tax on “other tobacco products,” such as cigars and vaporized e-cigarettes, to a level that he claimed would be equal to the proposed cigarette tax. Those proposed tax hikes were misguided. Sharp tax increases would make tobacco products much more expensive in Ohio than in neighboring states, and likely create a black market for smuggling cigarettes and other tobacco products across state lines.<sup>7</sup> This inequitable tax hike would place a higher tax burden on a small group of taxpayers. The House recognized this flawed proposal and pulled it from the budget.

#### *Commercial Activities Tax*

Tax economists generally consider the Commercial Activities Tax (CAT) to be especially damaging to the economy because it is levied upon business-to-business sales in addition to final sales to consumers. The CAT thus creates a “pyramiding effect” whereby additional tax costs are added to every step of the production process making it more expensive for businesses and ultimately consumers.<sup>8</sup> Given the inherent “pyramiding” effect of the gross receipts-based CAT, it is unwise to expand its burden on businesses, especially those with many intermediate transactions and low profit margins. The Governor proposed raising the CAT, but the House wisely removed the Governor’s tax increase, preferring a sound pro-growth tax policy instead. And we applaud them for it.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Sales Tax*

Governor Kasich took a good first step in pivoting to a pro-growth consumption-based tax such as the sales tax. The House took the extra step in the right direction by removing the Governor’s proposed one half percent increase in the sales tax rate. The House should continue moving Ohio from income taxes to a consumption-based tax system.

## **Medicaid Reforms**

The House budget paves the way for key improvements in the state’s Medicaid system.

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7 Rea Hederman, Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols, “One Cheer for Budget, but Improvement Needed,” The Buckeye Institute, February 10, 2015, [http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015\\_Budget\\_Overview\(1\).pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015_Budget_Overview(1).pdf).

8 Andrew Chamberlain and Patrick Fleenor, “Tax Pyramiding: The Economic Consequences of Gross Receipts Taxes,” Tax Foundation, accessed April 14, 2015, <http://taxfoundation.org/sites/default/files/docs/sr147.pdf>.

9 Rea Hederman, Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols, “Tax Reform Principles for Ohio,” The Buckeye Institute, February 2, 2015, accessed April 14, 2015, [http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Tax\\_Reform\\_Principles\\_for\\_Ohio\(FINAL\).pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Tax_Reform_Principles_for_Ohio(FINAL).pdf).

First, Governor Kasich proposed implementing premiums for Medicaid recipients with incomes greater than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, and the House builds upon this policy by requiring the Department of Medicaid to seek a federal waiver to create a new program for adults. The program would create Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) for each participant, and encourage participants to work by referring them to local workforce development agencies. Preliminary analysis from the Legislative Service Commission suggests that these waiver provisions could save Ohio tens of millions of dollars per year.<sup>10</sup> Although The Buckeye Institute maintains that Medicaid expansion was, is, and will continue to be the wrong policy for Ohio,<sup>11</sup> the House's waiver provisions should help to make a bad program better around the margins by making health care costs more transparent for Medicaid recipients, preparing them for the responsibility associated with private insurance, and offering them a way out of welfare dependency and into self-sufficiency.

Second, the House bill requires the Department of Medicaid to report on the health outcomes for the new Medicaid expansion population. This report will allow the General Assembly to better assess the costs and benefits of continuing with the Medicaid expansion for the next budget cycle—making this a critical good governance measure.

Finally, the House decreases GRF spending on Medicaid by over \$781 million during the two-year budget cycle. Unfortunately, a budgetary gimmick with hospital fees has allowed the program to draw additional federal dollars into the system and led to an overall increase in spending for Medicaid of \$435 million. But the lower GRF spending is at least a step in the right direction.

## Less Spending

The House has truly taken the road less travelled by proposing to spend even less from the General Revenue Fund than the Governor. Typically, the House and Senate propose *more* GRF spending than the Governor proposes, not less. In this rare case, however, the House budget calls for spending almost \$777 million less from the GRF than the Governor's budget<sup>12</sup>—and that 19% reduction is something to be praised.<sup>13</sup>

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10 Legislative Service Commission, "Comparison Document – HB 64," Legislative Service Commission April 14, 2015, <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc131/h1/comparedoc-hb64-h1.pdf>.

11 Robert Alt and Greg R. Lawson, "Expanding Medicaid: The Wrong Decision for Ohio," The Buckeye Institute, January 31, 2013, [http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Expanding%20Medicaid%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Expanding%20Medicaid%20(Final).pdf).

12 Legislative Service Commission, "Comparison Document – HB 64," Legislative Service Commission April 14, 2015, <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc131/h1/comparedoc-hb64-h1.pdf>.

13 Rea S. Hederman, Jr., Greg R. Lawson, Tom Lampman, and Joe Nichols, "One Cheer for the Budget, but Improvement Needed," The Buckeye Institute, February 10, 2015, [http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015\\_Budget\\_Overview%281%29.pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/2015_Budget_Overview%281%29.pdf).

To be sure, the House took some small steps back—adding \$2.5 million to Ohio Art’s Council subsidy program, and another \$179 million in education spending beyond the Governor’s own \$700 million increase, which will likely be of questionable value<sup>14</sup>—but it also found ways to trim fiscal fat from operating expenses across the board, saving \$25.9 million over the Governor’s proposal. Furthermore, the House takes a harder line on unchecked spending growth, saving \$10.6 million by flat-funding expenditures that the Governor’s budget would otherwise allow to grow.

Even more significant than specific line-item cuts are the House’s forward-thinking reforms.

First, the House proposes limiting the Controlling Board’s authority to increase spending. The seven-person board has considerable spending authority, to the point where it effectively forced Ohio to accept the \$2.5 billion Obamacare expansion.<sup>15</sup> The House proposal will wisely limit the board’s authority to increase expenditures to \$10 million or 10% of the approved expenditure, whichever is lower.

Second, the House proposes to establish the Ohio Expenditure Committee to review all state expenditures for waste and inefficiency. Such a proposal suggests a commitment to restraining government growth and curtailing government spending and waste. The Expenditure Committee reminds us of President Reagan’s “Grace Commission” designed to identify the steps needed to avoid runaway government debt. Regrettably, the Grace Commission’s recommendations were largely ignored and federal debt skyrocketed.<sup>16</sup> Ohio’s General Assembly should not make the same mistake or use the Committee as an excuse for inaction. Instead, the House has presented an opportunity to partner in reform, and its foresight and fiscal restraint are laudable.

## Labor Reforms

The House budget proposal kick-starts labor reforms that will help increase competition and lower construction costs on government projects. Any public works project receiving state

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- 14 Robert N. Stewart, “More Money Won’t Buy Better Student Achievement,” Public Interest Institute Brief, accessed April 15, 2015, <http://www.limitedgovernment.org/publications/pubs/briefs/pdfs/brf13-9.pdf>; Jonathan Butcher, “The Myth of Education Cuts and Why Money Can’t Buy an A+,” The Goldwater Institute, June 23, 2013, <http://goldwaterinstitute.org/en/work/topics/education/education-spending/the-myth-of-education-cuts-and-why-money-cant-buy-/>. See also Dan Lips, Shawna Watkins, Ph.D., and John Fleming, “Does Spending More on Education Improve Academic Achievement?” The Heritage Foundation, September 8, 2008, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2008/09/does-spending-more-on-education-improve-academic-achievement?ac=1>; and Andrew J. Coulson, “State Education Trends: Academic Performance and Spending over the Past 40 Years,” The Cato Institute Policy Report, September 8, 2008, <http://www.cato.org/policy-reports/state-education-trends>.
  - 15 Robert Higgs, “Controlling Board Gives OK to use of Federal Money to Pay for Medicaid Expansion in Ohio,” The Cleveland Plain Dealer, October 21, 2013, [http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2013/10/controlling\\_board\\_gives\\_ok\\_to.html](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2013/10/controlling_board_gives_ok_to.html).
  - 16 Congressional Research Services, “Grace Commission,” The Library of Congress, accessed April 14, 2015, [http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacrs9044/m1/1/high\\_res\\_d/1P0281G.pdf](http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacrs9044/m1/1/high_res_d/1P0281G.pdf).

funds can no longer make signing project labor agreements (PLAs) a condition of submitting a bid. Unions negotiate the terms of PLAs before the first bid is submitted, resulting in bidders

being forced to acquiesce to these demands and unions defining the terms of the bidding process.<sup>17</sup> This raises costs and undermines competition.<sup>18</sup> For example, Ohio construction projects that originally used PLAs but subsequently dropped them between rounds of bidding saw bid prices decrease by 22%.<sup>19</sup> The House budget would prohibit future policymakers from using these stifling agreements as a condition of receiving state funds. This proactive measure will help keep public works costs from spiraling out of control.

The House's effort to end the PLA system is encouraging, and offers hope that the end of Ohio's prevailing wage system may also be in sight. Like PLAs, Ohio's prevailing wage law requires all public contractors to apply union practices. The prevailing wage is set by rigid calculations that only take union wages into consideration, tilting the bidding process in favor of unions and artificially driving up costs. When Ohio's schools were exempted from this abusive practice, the state saved \$487.9 million in construction costs over four years.<sup>20</sup>

The House also included a provision that will not allow charter school employees who elect to collectively bargain under Federal law to participate in the State Teachers Retirement or School Employee Retirement Systems. This provision will likely generate savings to both pension systems. It will also help avoid enmeshing charter schools in many of the same rolls of red tape that often constrain traditional public schools from achieving their educational aims.

By ending the PLA system and tweaking the law regarding charter school employees, the House has signaled its willingness to roll up its sleeves and do some of the dirty work necessary on labor reform.

## Conclusion

The House budget proposal provides a good start on many key fiscal issues, while highlighting just how much reform and work still needs to be done to make Ohio stronger and more competitive.

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17 Mary McCleary, "School Building Projects - Rewarding Special Interests at the Expense of Students, Teachers, and Taxpayers," The Buckeye Institute, September 6, 2010, <http://buckeyeinstitute.org/news-from-the-statehouse?id=64>.

18 Paul Bachman & Jonathan Haughton, "Do Project Labor Agreements Raise Construction Costs?" Bentley University, accessed April 14, 2015, <http://www.bentley.edu/centers/sites/www.bentley.edu/centers/files/csbig/bachman.pdf>.

19 Bill Bush, "New Bids to Drop Cost of Work on Deaf, Blind Schools" The Columbus Dispatch, November 10, 2010, [http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2010/11/11/New\\_bids\\_drop\\_cost\\_of\\_work\\_on\\_deafx\\_blind\\_schools.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2010/11/11/New_bids_drop_cost_of_work_on_deafx_blind_schools.html); Mary McCleary, "School Building Projects - Rewarding Special Interests at the Expense of Students, Teachers, and Taxpayers," The Buckeye Institute, September 6, 2010, <http://buckeyeinstitute.org/news-from-the-statehouse?id=64>.

20 Allan Lundall, "The Effects of Exemption of School Construction Projects from Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law," Legislative Service Commission, May 20, 2002, <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/research/srr149.pdf>.



The House deserves great credit for advancing sound, pro-growth tax strategies that will make the state's tax code more equitable and less suffocating to Ohio families and businesses.

But a bolder shift away from growth-stunting income taxes, a deeper evaluation of the gross receipts business CAT, and reforming the cumbersome municipal income tax system are all additional steps for the General Assembly to take.

Similarly, the House proffered a rare budget in proposing less GRF spending than the Administration, but more fiscal restraint remains to be demonstrated. Education and Medicaid spending, in particular, must soon be addressed and dealt with more severely or the window of opportunity for further reforms will slam shut.

In tackling Medicaid and labor reforms, the House showed a resolve to cut future costs through changing programmatic rules and requirements rather than relying purely on budget line-items. But reforms like HSA waivers and eliminating PLA requirements mark only the beginning, not the end of reforms necessary to contain costs, increase transparency, and make Ohio competitive again.

Despite the need for further reforms and cost-cutting measures, under the House plan wasteful spending will be more carefully scrutinized, less money will flow from the General Revenue Fund, Medicaid will be more transparent, government construction contracts will be more competitive, and Ohio taxpayers will keep more of their hard-earned money. And those improvements are worthy of praise and appreciation.

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy.

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**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** Reed, Bob  
**Subject:** RE: articles

*No, but here's the text of the article.*

## Ohio Needs a Second Dose of Labor Reform

If Gov. John Kasich wants to compete for the presidency in 2016, he ought to stand up for employees right now.



Ohio Gov. John Kasich *PHOTO: JIM COLE/ASSOCIATED PRESS*

By

Robert Alt

April 24, 2015 6:16 p.m. ET

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is considering a presidential run—and undoubtedly hoping to leverage his leadership of the quintessential swing state in the Electoral College. But if Mr. Kasich wants to compete against the likes of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, he must stand up for employees and against antiquated labor laws that have made Ohio uncompetitive against its Midwestern neighbors.